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Requested date: 30-November-2025

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Source of document: USGS FOIA
P.O. Box 66783
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87193
[DOI Public Access Link \(PAL\)](#)
[FOIA.gov](#)

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United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, Virginia 20192-0002

In Reply Refer To:
U.S. Geological Survey
Attention: Judy Cearley
Post Office Box 66783
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87193

January 13, 2026

Re: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Tracking #
DOI-2026-002104 – Response

This letter is our response to your FOIA request dated November 30, 2025, for the following:

A copy of the meeting minutes and agendas for each meeting of the Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communications (SCNANTC) for meetings during the time period January 1, 2020 through the present. If this is burdensome, then I agree to limit the request to meetings during the time period January 1, 2022 to the present. These records are likely maintained by the US Board of Geographic Names at USGS.

We are releasing one Portable Document Format (PDF) electronic file, consisting of 57 pages, in part. We reasonably foresee that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one or more of the nine exemptions to the FOIA's general rule of disclosure and disclosure would be prohibited by law; therefore, portions of these materials are being withheld under the following FOIA exemptions. Please note that some pages contain redactions pursuant to more than one exemption.

Exemption 3

Exemption 3 allows the withholding of information protected by a nondisclosure provision in a federal statute other than the FOIA. Specifically, 10 U.S. Code § 424b(3), prohibits the release of the number of persons employed by or assigned or detailed to any such organization or the name, official title, occupational series, grade, or salary of any organization or any function of, and certain information pertaining to employees of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the

National Reconnaissance Office, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. Approximately 7 pages contain redactions per Exemption 3.

Exemption 5

Exemption 5 allows an agency to withhold “inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party ... in litigation with the agency.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). Exemption 5 therefore incorporates the privileges that protect materials from discovery in litigation, including the deliberative process, attorney work-product, attorney-client, and commercial information privileges. We are partially withholding (redacting) 1 page under Exemption 5 because the information qualifies to be withheld under the following privilege:

Commercial Information Privilege

The information being withheld consists of conference call numbers and passcodes. The Department of the Interior has determined that the conference call numbers and passcodes constitute “inter-agency” documents because they are only shared with members of the Department and other federal agencies for the purpose of conducting official government business. To qualifying as “inter-agency” documents, the Department has determined that the passcodes qualify as “confidential commercial information” protectable by Exemption 5. The court held that when the government enters the marketplace as an ordinary commercial buyer or seller, the government’s information should be protected from competitive disadvantage under Exemption 5. Exemption 5 prevails “where the document contains ‘sensitive information not otherwise available,’ and disclosure would significantly harm the government’s commercial interest.”

Here, the government entered the marketplace as an ordinary commercial buyer or private conference call numbers and passcodes. The information is “sensitive and not otherwise available” as the numbers provide access to sensitive conversations between government employees and only the government and its vendor have access to the information. If the conference call numbers and/or passcodes were released, the government’s financial interest would be significantly harmed. The conference calls would no longer be private since unknown, non-governmental parties would have the ability to listen in to the calls. The funds spent on purchasing the call-in numbers and passcodes would therefore be wasted, and the conference call numbers and passcodes would be of no use. Because the release of the conference call numbers and passcodes would significantly harm the government’s financial interest by publicizing sensitive information, we are withholding them under Exemption 5.

Exemption 6

Exemption 6 allows an agency to withhold “personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). The phrase “similar files” covers any agency records containing information about a particular individual that can be identified as applying to that individual. To determine whether releasing records containing information about a particular individual would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, we are required to balance the privacy interest that would be affected by disclosure against any public interest in the information.

Under the FOIA, the only relevant public interest to consider under the exemption is the extent to which the information sought would shed light on agency's performance of its statutory duties or otherwise let citizens "know what their government is up to." The burden is on the requester to establish that disclosure would serve the public interest. When the privacy interest at stake and the public interest in disclosure have been determined, the two competing interests must be weighed against one another to determine which is the greater result of disclosure: the harm to personal privacy or the benefit to the public. The purposes for which the request for information is made do not impact this balancing test, as a release of information requested under the FOIA constitutes a release to the general public.

The information that has been withheld under Exemption 6 consists of the name of National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency personnel. We have determined that the individuals to whom the information pertains have a substantial privacy interest in withholding it. Additionally, you have not provided information that explains a relevant public interest under the FOIA in the disclosure of this personal information and we have determined that the disclosure of this information would shed little or no light on the performance of the agency's statutory duties. Because the harm to personal privacy is greater than whatever public interest may be served by disclosure, release of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of these individuals and we are withholding the information under Exemption 6. Approximately 7 pages have been redacted under exemption 6.

Judy Cearley, Government Information Specialist, is responsible for this partial denial. Jennifer Heindl, Attorney Advisor with the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of the Solicitor, was consulted regarding this response.

We classified you as an "other-use" requester category and there is no billable fee for the processing of this request.

Appeal Rights

You may appeal this response to the Department of the Interior's FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you choose to appeal, the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer must receive your FOIA appeal **no later than 90 workdays** from the date of this letter. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

Your appeal must be made in writing. You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service, fax, or email. All communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words: "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." You must include an explanation of why you believe the USGS's response is in error. You must also include with your appeal copies of all correspondence between you and USGS concerning your FOIA request, including your original FOIA request and USGS's response. Failure to include with your appeal all correspondence between you and USGS will result in the Department's rejection of your appeal, unless the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer determines (in the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer's sole discretion) that good cause exists to accept the defective appeal.

Please include your name and daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address and fax number (if available) in case the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification of your appeal.

DOI FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office Contact Information

Department of the Interior
 Office of the Solicitor
 1849 C Street, Northwest
 MS-6556 MIB
 Washington, DC 20240
 Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office
 Telephone: (202) 208-5339
 Fax: (202) 208-6677
 Email: FOIA.Appeals@sol.doi.gov

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
 National Archives and Records Administration
 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS
 College Park, Maryland 20740-6001
 Telephone: (202) 741-5770
 Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
 E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
 Web: <https://www.archives.gov/ogis>

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer. Contact information for the Department's FOIA Public Liaison, who you may also seek dispute resolution services from, is available at <https://www.doi.gov/foia/foiacenters>.

This completes our response to your request. If you have any questions about our response to your request, please contact me by email at jcearley@usgs.gov.

Sincerely,

**JUDY
 CEARLEY**

Digitally signed by
 JUDY CEARLEY
 Date: 2026.01.13
 07:32:34 -08'00'

Judy Cearley
 U.S. Geological Survey
 Government Information Specialist

Enclosure:
 2026-002104 - Combined Records_Redacted.pdf (57 pages)



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Tribal Geographic Names and Communication with Tribal Governments
2nd Meeting July 9, 2020 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

I. Introductions

Attendees:

BGN Staff:

Glenn Guempel – Exec Sec
Jenny Runyon
Matt O’Donnell
Julie-Ann Danfora
Maria McCormick

Others:

Ryan Nichols, DOI
Jo Baker

BGN Members/Deputy Members

Susan Lyon, US Army COE
BC Forrest, GPO
Chis Hammond DOI/USGS Tribal Liaison
Wendi-Starr Brown, DOI/BIA
Mike Tischler, DOI - USGS
Liz Flake, USPS
Thad Ellerbe, DOC/NOAA
Andrew Flora, DOC/Census
Betsy Kanalley

II. Meeting Objectives

The purpose of the meeting today was to continue sharing ideas on ways to improve getting the word out to Tribes about the BGN process, who we are and how they can engage with the BGN to provide input to existing proposal received by the BNG and to submit their own Tribe’s proposals for new names/name changes and for to provide the BGN their names on their Trust Lands. What options can we explore to encourage more participation/input from Tribes?

III. Discussion

The special committee discussed many possible ways to augment communication with Tribes. These have been captured in a spreadsheet which was sent to the committee members for them to rate in terms of whether each is worth pursuing.

Proposed Communication Method
<p>Explore the possibility of "piggy backing" onto a current Federal Register notice that is published routinely for Tribal Notification. The notice relates to FOIA and the POC Is Laurel Iron Cloud, BIA. Contact Ms. Ironcloud to see if this could be an opportunity. The reason for doing this is that it is something that Tribes may already be looking for and reading on a routine basis.</p>
<p>Publish our own Federal Register Notice to Tribes about BGN Process</p>
<p>Engage FLMA Tribal Liaisons to do outreach to Tribes about BGN Process, either for specific names or when review lists are published</p>
<p>Working with Tribal Liaisons, USGS, Census, FLMA's other, see if there are tribal meetings, conferences that are taking place where we could attend and also either ask to be on the agenda or provide a special briefing/session</p>
<p>With the Special Committee on Communications (SCC) - Prepare and distribute a BGN brochure and other briefing materials specifically directed to how Tribes can engage with the BGN</p>
<p>Prepare a regular email updates to all THPOs about BGN proposal process, recent proposals and decisions of interest to tribes, etc.</p>
<p>With SCC prepare and help from Tribal liaisons look into publishing news items about BGN in Tribal media (i.e. Indian Country Today)</p>
<p>Communication with tribes that focuses on the value for Tribes in engaging with the BGN to have their names federally recognized? How?</p>
<p>Other ways to socialize the BGN and the geographic names process so that it becomes familiar and is on people's radar</p>
<p>Personal relationships are most effective. Is it possible to have some periodic phone calls, one-on-one with THIPOs -- other Tribal Government POCS. How would we do this?</p>

Webinar -- could we get a Tribe to share their experience with other Tribes? Da-ek Dow Go-et Mountain for example.

Participate in Tribal Network Communications/Meetings

- IV. Next Meeting will be on Thursday, August 13, 2020, following the BGN/DNC Meeting.**
- V. Adjourn**

Hello everyone

Here is the agenda for our meeting tomorrow: Please see the attached documents below. We will meet tomorrow, after the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) meeting. As we have done previously, we will stay on the video conference that Julie-Ann Danfora set up for the DNC meeting, and I am setting this meeting to go until 12:30 PM.

We will be reviewing the suggestions for augmenting communication with Tribes and hopefully, selecting 1 or 2 items to focus on for this year and identifying a team to work on them.

I. Welcome

II. Introductions

III. Review the Matrix of Communication Ideas & Suggestions BGN Staff communication

- a. Selection of ideas to focus on?
- b. Identify lead/team to work on priority items selected

IV. Next Steps

V. Next Meeting

VI. Adjourn

Attached are draft notes from our meeting last month, and the matrix of communication "ideas" I asked you to prioritize. If I managed to not send you a request for input, or I missed your email response, I apologize for my lack of organization. You can send it to me, or we can add it during the meeting. In any case, this gives us something to get us started.



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
3rd Meeting August 13, 2020 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

I. Introductions

Attendees:

BGN Staff:

Glenn Guempel – Exec Sec

Jenny Runyon

Matt O'Donnell

Julie-Ann Danfora

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)

Others:

Jo Baker

BGN Members/Deputy Members

Susan Lyon, US Army COE

BC Forrest, GPO

Chis Hammond DOI/USGS Tribal Liaison

Wendi-Starr Brown, DOI/BIA

Thad Ellerbe, DOC/NOAA

Andrew Flora, DOC/Census

Betsy Kanalley

II. Meeting Objectives

The focus of the 3rd meeting was to review input on the various communication ideas that were shared at the July meeting. Betsy had circulated a table with the various ideas and requested that special committee participants rate the ideas.

III. Discussion

The various communication improvement/augmentation ideas were discussed in some detail. None were really discarded but some special committee members expressed concern/discomfort with the idea of initiating a BGN-owned/authored Federal register notice. The reasons for this were:

1. None of the team has direct experience with this formal process
2. There is an expense associated with publishing a notice and there is no certainty that Tribes would necessarily see it, nor would they know to be on the look-out for it.

BC Forrest explained that one advantage of leveraging an existing Federal Register Notice was that Tribes would likely be looking for it. If it were possible to add something about the BGN seeking input from Tribes, there is a better chance of it being seen and read vs. a stand-alone notice. **Action: Wendi- Starr Brown agreed to reach out to Laurel Iron Cloud and to find out more about the Fed Register Notices she initiates and to see if there is an opportunity to leverage that communication.**

It was noted by many that the ideas on creating webinars and pursuing one-on-one communication/outreach were probably effective but given the capacity limitations of the special committee members, these options were seen as being least realistic to accomplish. The one-on-one communication may be a natural outcome of other actions but putting together a plan to do this kind of outreach would not be feasible for reaching all Tribes on a regular basis.

All agreed that it would be most effective to find a way to leverage the existing network of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs), although we also noted that not every Tribe has a THPO. Action: Betsy will talk to FS OTR and Tribal Liaisons about looking for ways to tap into the FS network of liaisons/THPOs.

The BGN will continue to participate in Tribal Conferences and Meeting where possible. (note: The August 4 briefing by Jenny Runyon at the Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations monthly conference call was very well received and although a number of Regional Liaisons could not attend, the PowerPoint slides and recorded TEAMS session were both widely circulated. These liaisons now have a much better understanding of the BGN process and our desire to engage more fully with Tribes.

BGN staff has received invitations to two gatherings in 2021; “To Bridge a Gap” Meeting in OK in April 2021 and the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums, in DC in November 2021.

Chris Hammond noted that informal conversations are a very effective means of socializing information about the BGN, who we are, what we do and to share the news that we are seeking more input from Tribes.

Working with/through our Tribal Liaison community to begin this communication received the highest average ranking among those participating in rating ideas. Can our Tribal Liaisons help here? (Betsy)

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6) raised the concern that the BGN website itself could be more clear in communicating the mission of the BGN, who we are with less focus on historical angle and more plain language/clear messaging about who we are and the opportunity for public engagement and form all interested parties.

Action: Bring this up to the BGN Executive Committee?

- IV. **Next Meeting will be on Thursday, Sept 10, 2020, following the BGN/DNC Meeting.**
- V. **Adjourn**

BGN Special Committee Meeting on Native American Names and Tribal Communication

Greetings All:

I have attached the matrix of ideas with an average rating applied. I am also attaching a draft of the very brief notes from our last meeting.

We will hold a special committee meeting directly following the BGN Domestic Names Committee Meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2020 from 11:00 to 12:30 PM. The tentative Agenda is below:

- I. Welcome to Guest-- Laurel Iron Cloud, Chief FOIA Officer DOI Bureau of Indian Affairs
- II. Introductions
- III. Discussion with Laurel Iron Cloud & Review of Special Committee Goals/objectives
- IV. Continued review/brainstorming session on matrix of communication ideas

As we have done in the past, we will stay on the BGN virtual meeting set-up we were using for the BGN Domestic Names Committee Meeting. You may have seen that we will be using Microsoft Teams as our platform this time. I have copied and pasted the Teams link from the BGN meeting into this invitation.

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

+(b) (5) United States, Danville (Toll)

Conference ID: (b) (5) #



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
4^d Meeting September 10, 2020 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

I. Introductions

Attendees:

BGN Staff:

Glenn Guempel – Exec Sec

Jenny Runyon

Matt O'Donnell

Julie-Ann Danfora

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6)

Others:

Jo Baker

Guest:

Laurel Iron Cloud, BIA

BGN Members/Deputy Members

Susan Lyon, US Army COE

BC Forrest, GPO

Chis Hammond DOI/USGS Tribal Liaison

Wendi-Starr Brown, DOI/BIA

Thad Ellerbe, DOC/NOAA

Andrew Flora, DOC/Census

Ron Salz

Tim St. Onge

Betsy Kanalley

II. Meeting Objectives

The focus of the 4th meeting was to continue exploring various communication ideas that are in the attached spreadsheet/table that special committee members have ranked in order of their view on effectiveness vs. effort (ROC?). Also, Laurel Iron Cloud, Chief Division of Tribal Government Services, BIA attended the meeting to advise the group on communication with Tribes, and the use of the Federal Register in particular.

III. Discussion

The various communication improvement/augmentation ideas were discussed with informal communication and leveraging relationships already in place with agency Tribal Liaisons with THPOs and other Tribal contact. This was considered highly effective and a part of other avenues of communication and coordination such as working with our Tribal Liaisons as we plan attendance and presentations at tribal conferences and meeting. Some members could work with agency liaisons, while others were not able to do so at this time. Census has an effective network of tribal liaisons but with focus on the 2020 Census and the problems due to the COVID19, this is not the time to ask for support from Census network of tribal liaisons. FS Tribal Liaisons are helpful, some Regions more than others. The FS has a Program Analyst in the National Office of Tribal Relations who is permanently assigned to

help with geographic names, Angela Pittman. Should we consider connecting with tribal liaisons at US Corps of Engineers? NPS? BLM?

Discussion moved to another important way to communicate with Tribes and establish connections through regular attendance at Tribal conferences, meetings and other gatherings, both virtual and in-person. Chris Hammond recommended taking a strategic approach to attending these conferences for 2021 and out-years. BGN has already received two invitations to attend tribal conferences in 2021.

Action: Betsy Kanalley agreed to start a list of conferences and dates and to share with group so that we can add to it. We can review and plan at upcoming meetings.

At this point in the meeting Laurel Iron Cloud, Chief Division of Tribal Government Services, BIA joined in. Betsy thanked her for joining and explained why we had sought her advice. She thanked Wendi-Starr Brown for arranging for Ms. Iron Cloud to meet with the group. Introductions were made and Ms. Iron Cloud provided an overview of her Federal Register notice called the “Entities List.” She further stated that this is a discreet communication piece that is very specific in terms of content and she wants it to remain as is, and not have additional BGN messaging added in. She did state that Tribes regularly search the Federal Register for notices of interest to Tribes and suggested that the BGN consider its own Federal Register Notice.

Action: Glen Gumpel agreed to research what is involved if the BGN Staff were to publish a notice to the Federal Register and to report back at the next meeting.

Additional recommendations proposed:

- Outreach to BIA Tribal Government Services Officer in each BIA Region – could we set up a BGN webinar? They do not have authority to speak on behalf of Tribes, but this would be an opportunity to create awareness among these individuals so that they would have the information if the opportunity should come up to share it with Tribes.
 - Did we ask Ms. Iron Cloud if she would help us set up some communication with BIA Regional Directors?
- We also discussed attending Tribal conferences and doing presentations and it was noted that it might even be more effective to have table ((or share space at an agency table/booth) or both. The booth would probably reach more new people where-as a paper session might only be attended by those who already area aware of the BGN.

Betsy suggested that we go through the conference list next month and begin to strategize on an attendance plan at our next meeting.

Jenny asked that the team discuss the issues that the BGN staff is dealing with right regarding doing ad hoc outreach to tribes. This will also be an agenda topic for next month.

- IV. Next Meeting will be on Thursday, October 8, 2020, following the BGN/DNC Meeting.
- V. Adjourn



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Tribal Geographic Names and Communication with Tribal Governments
Meeting October 8, 2020 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions
- III. Develop recommendation for BGN Staff on when it is appropriate to do ad hoc outreach to Tribes on specific proposals. Begin to develop decision process-flow
- IV. Federal Register Notice – Report out from Glenn
- V. Review conference list – discuss who, what where when?
- VI. Next Steps
- VII. Next Meeting
- VIII. Adjourn



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
5^d Meeting October 8, 2020 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

I. Introductions

Attendees:

BGN Staff:

Glenn Guempel – Exec Sec
Jenny Runyon
Matt O'Donnell
Julie-Ann Danfora

Others:

Jo Baker
Guest:

BGN Members/Deputy Members

Susan Lyon, US Army COE
BC Forrest, GPO
Chis Hammond DOI/USGS Tribal Liaison
Wendi-Starr Brown, DOI/BIA
Thad Ellerbe, DOC/NOAA
Andrew Flora, DOC/Census
Ron Salz
Tim St. Onge
Betsy Kanalley

II. Meeting Objectives

The focus of the 5th meeting was to learn more about the process/cost of submitting a Federal Register Notice. Glenn Guempel presented information that he had learned about the process. There was not enough time to fully engage on the second topic, which was to be a strategic discussion on BGN presence at Tribal meetings, conferences, etc.

III. Discussion

IV. There was discussion of the pros and cons of BGN staff taking this on. It could be done one-time notice that would point to the BGN website and policies and serve as an initial form of outreach to Tribes, to introduce what we are? Or, would it be a regular, repeated notice? Would it replace the regular emails sent to Tribal governments when a new review list is released? As the meeting was wrapping up, there were many who wanted to try a federal registration notice and others who expressed concern about setting Tribal expectations with the single notice, when we do not intend to make it a regular practice. A sensing of the team indicated that most thought we should take the idea to the full DNC. After the meeting, the Chairperson received calls from special committee members who asked that we hold off on asking the full DNC to vote until we come to them with a firm recommendation.

Discussion moved briefly to BGN participation at Tribal conferences, meetings and other gatherings, both virtual and in-person. **Action: Betsy Kanalley will share the list with the special committee and discuss at next meeting.**

- V. Special Committee members agreed to check in with their agency Tribal Relations POCS on their thoughts on improving communication and doing outreach. Andy Flora and Thad Ellerbe.
- VI. **Next Meeting will be on Thursday, November 12, 2020, following the BGN/DNC Meeting.**
- VII. **Adjourn**



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
7th Meeting November 12, 2020 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

I. Introductions

Attendees

Chis Hammond DOI/USGS Tribal Liaison
Tara Wallace, DOC/NOAA
Thad Ellerbe, DOC/NOAA
Andrew Flora, DOC/Census
Ron Salz, DOI/ FWS
Wendi-Starr Brown, BIA
Betsy Kanalley, USDA/FS
Glenn Guempel – Exec Sec
Maria McCormick
Jenny Runyon
Matt O'Donnell
Julie-Ann Danfora
Jo Baker

II. Meeting Objectives

Primary agenda topics for today

1. Review strawman Federal Register Notice (FRN) prepared by Andy Flora
2. Discuss participation at upcoming Tribal meetings/conferences
3. Briefing Materials

III. Discussion

- a. **Federal Register Notice** -- Ron Salz noted that since the soon to be appointed DOI Sec, Deb Haaland has an interest in offensive placenames (and had introduced a bill while a Congressional Representative for NM), the BGN should begin to assemble a briefing package for her. The draft FNR should be part of the package. Action? Begin assembling pieces of briefing package?
 - i. Andy Flora led the discussion the draft FNR review. Flora had provided the draft to committee members in advance of meeting. He noted six points for tribal participation; 1) simple statement encouraging participation; 2) Tribes often view the federal government as a single entity with one entry point for communications. Effective communication can be achieved by coordinating among federal agencies reps who

already do outreach to tribes as a communication channel to Tribes about BGN and the desire for their participation; 3) use plain language, avoid jargon; 4) not a good idea to regurgitate Policy X, better to reinforce early messages about seeking tribal participation; 5) Describe benefit to Tribes gained through participating in BGN process. 6) Respect Tribes decision to not participate (such as preserving names in tribal language).

- ii. The special committee had very positive comments on the draft FRN. **Action: The group recommended moving forward with the document and agreed to get comments to Flora in time for him to get a final version to Jenny Runyon, BGN staff by Jan 22, 2021.** Glen will work with Ron to determine when and how to submit through USGS process (note: following the meeting it was learned that DOI has put a freeze on all FNR submissions and is revising process for submission which requires it going through the Department. FRN is on hold for now).

b. Presentations at Tribal Conferences/Meeting

- i. **To Bridge a Gap – March 30-April 1 – Virtual Meeting.** Action: Betsy will reach out to FS Tribal Liaison, Lexie Rue-Harris who invited BGN presentation. Who should be presenter? Note: Lexie had already submitted Kanalley and Runyon. This is an FS-Tribal engagement. What are other agencies doing. NPS? FEMA? USACOE? BLM? (note Pat Mahoney offered to contact BLM liaisons on 2/12).
 - 1. **Runyon noted that it is also necessary for BGN members to brief within their own agency about the BGN process.** Thad noted that he includes BGN training in NOAA Cartographers class. Can Thad share materials, questions asked, etc?
- ii. Briefing/Training Materials
 - 1. Susan Lyon – brochure – Action need to check status
 - 2. Runyon – should assemble materials in a central location
 - 3. Story Map – maybe useful to capture interest -- Thad and Matt – BGN staff to develop – more to follow next month.

IV. Next Meeting in February (Date TBD). Schedule conflicts following the Feb and March DNC Meeting.

V. Adjourn



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
6th Meeting November 12, 2020 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions
- III. **Review the option to send a Federal Register Notice—poll committee members**
- IV. **Report out from special committee members out-reach to their Tribal Relations staff(s)**
 - a. **Thad Ellerbe, NOAA**
 - b. **Andy Flora, Census**
 - c. **Others?**
- V. Next Meeting
- VI. Adjourn



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
6^d Meeting November 12, 2020 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

I. Introductions

Attendees

BGN Members/Deputy Members

Susan Lyon, US Army COE

BC Forrest, GPO

Chis Hammond DOI/USGS Tribal Liaison

Tara Wallace, DOC/NOAA

Thad Ellerbe, DOC/NOAA

Andrew Flora, DOC/Census

Ron Salz, DOI/ FWS –joined late

Betsy Kanalley, USDA/FS

BGN Staff:

Glenn Guempel – Exec Sec

Jenny Runyon

Matt O'Donnell

Julie-Ann Danfora

Others:

Jo Baker

II. Meeting Objectives

Two primary agenda topics for today

1. Revisit decision on Federal Register Notice and taking it to DNC (see email from Betsy dated 10-09-2020)
2. Discuss outreach to Tribal Liaison Staffs – NOAA and Census

III. Discussion

- IV.** There was discussion of the pros and cons of BGN staff taking this on. It could be published only one-time for awareness/information and would direct readers to the BGN website to view BGN policies and proposal submission processes. It would serve as an initial form of outreach and introduction to the BGN for readers (intent to reach Tribal audience). There was continued discussion on whether we would want to do this on a periodic basis. It would not replace the current process with BGN staff sending email notifications to Tribal governments when a new review list is released.

- a. Chris Hammond, Tribal Liaison, USGS – the current BGN process is still relatively new and advised continuing with this process and allowing it to catch on, while pursuing the other informal communication and developing briefings/materials for upcoming Tribal conferences and meetings.
 - b. **Andy Flora agreed to continue discussions with Census Tribal Team and to develop a draft federal register notice for the team to review. Andy will share any additional feedback as he continues discussions within Census.**
 - c. Informal sensing of team members – not all members of the special committee are fully convinced that we should try a Federal Register Notice. No decision yet, we will look at Andy’s draft and continue discussion.
- V. Thad Ellerbe, NOAA and Andy Flora, Census provided information they each obtained in talking to their agency Tribal POCs.
- a. Thad – introduced the NOAA Tribal Team to the BGN and its mission. They were open, receptive and “happy to help” us in our efforts to do outreach to Tribes. Thad felt that they would be willing to assist with informal communication, on specific cases of interest to Tribes especially if it involved an area where NOAA charts, creates geospatial information, but with more general communication. Thad and Tara will explore this further as we continue to develop our approaches to improved communication. Thad and the NOAA Tribal POCs discussed developing communication materials including something in “story form” would be useful. A Story Map on tribal geographic names could be effective – need more discussion on this. **Action: Matt O’Donnell will take the lead on story map development share progress on a future call? Action: All -- Be thinking of how the NOAA team can assist us.**
 - i. Other communication materials needed – brochure geared to Tribe? Susan Lyon and Special Committee on Communication will be developing several new/ revised communication items, one of which would be a brochure tailored to Tribes. **Need POC to support this—take lead?**
 - b. **Andy Flora provided the team with an overview of his discussion with Census Tribal Liaisons.** There are 6 Census Regions and extensive tribal liaison network. Andy provided a spreadsheet with questions posed to the team and responses along with a more detailed write up of responses. The Census Tribal POCs felt it was important to help Tribes understand why BGN is important/matters to them. Note: What is the benefit to Tribes of having their geographic names federally recognized? Andy is going to have additional communication with Tribal POCs and will share what he learns at our next meeting.
- VI. **Next Meeting – plan to have a longer meeting in January (Date TBD). We will hold a short meeting Thursday, December 10, 2020, following the BGN/DNC Meeting.** Post meeting note – suggestion to meet during the time scheduled for the Jan 2021 DNC meeting which has been canceled. Look for an email/calendar invitation.
- VII. **Adjourn**



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
8th Meeting Wednesday, Feb 18, 2021 1:00 – 3:00 PM

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions – Guest from Census Bureau, Wendy Hawley
- III. **Review and Discussion of Actions**
 - a. **Federal Register Notice – Status—changes to DOI FRN submission process**
 - b. **Presentations at Meetings/Conferences**
 - i. **To Bridge a Gap – March 30- April 2**
 - ii. **Association of Tribal Libraries, Archives and Museums (ATLAM) – [Session proposals due February 24](#)**
 - iii. **National Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) - Dedicated Session**
 - c. **Support/Guidance from Tribal Liaison staffs at BGN member agencies (FS, NOAA, Census, BIA, other)**
 - i. **Wendy Hawley, Census**
 - d. **Communication Materials**
 - i. **Story Map Content -- name proposals that tell a story**
- IV. Next Meeting
- V. Adjourn



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
8th Meeting, February 17 2021 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

I. Introductions

Attendees:

Chis Hammond DOI/USGS Tribal Liaison
Tara Wallace, DOC/NOAA
Thad Ellerbe, DOC/NOAA
Andrew Flora, DOC/Census
Wendy Hawley, DOC/Census
Susan Lyon, DoD/ USACOE
B.C. Forrest, GPO
Betsy Kanalley, USDA/FS
Wendi-Starr Brown
Glenn Guempel BGN/ DNC Exec Sec
Monique Vanlandingham, BGN Staff
Jenny Runyon, BGN Staff
Matt O'Donnell, BGN Staff
Julie-Ann Danfora, BGN Staff
Jo Baker, BGN Staff

II. Meeting Objectives

Primary agenda topics for today

1. Draft Federal Register Notice – on hold for now
2. Discuss participation at upcoming Tribal meetings/conferences
3. Briefing Materials
4. Other topics?

III. Discussion

- i. **Federal Register Notice (FRN)** – We have taken this action as far as we can go for now. **Draft version is final and is being held by the BGN Exec. Secretary indefinitely.** The new administration has put a hold on publishing federal register notices. Once this hold is lifted, we will re-examine whether or not it makes sense to publish this one time only FRN. If the hold continues for too long we should consider tweaking the FRN from time to time.
- ii. **Other Outreach** -- Wendy Hawley -DOC/Census -Tribal joined the meeting and will try to attend future meeting to advise the special

committee. She is located in Washington State and has 30 years of experience working with Tribes. Wendy helped the BGN staff develop their comprehensive list of addresses for federally recognized Tribes.

Welcome and Thank you, Wendy!

1. Andy Flora – informal means of outreach may be more effective than the formal FRN.
2. Tara Wallace – Should we ask other BGN member agencies to help with outreach to Tribes through their Tribal relations staffs/? BLM, NPS Regional/ local Tribal Relations staffs may have a network we could leverage and/or offer suggestions for outreach and getting feedback from Tribes. Dorothy FireCloud 's name was brought forward, she is the NPS Native American Affairs Liaison – could she advise the BGN?
3. Wendy Hawley noted that many Tribes have hear of the BGN but do not know exactly what we do, or how to participate.
 - a. Important to recognize that every Tribe is different, and their governments are set up differently and outreach may require a different approach.
 - b. Avoid sounding paternalistic when doing this outreach.
 - c. Wendy noted that 2 years before each decennial census there is hiring to address contact with Tribes and this timing may be good to ask for help in doing Tribal outreach.

iii. **Presentations at Tribal Conferences/Meeting**

1. **To Bridge a Gap** – March 30-April 1 – Virtual Meeting. Action: FS – Betsy Kanalley, USDA FS and Jenny Runyon, BGN Staff are working with FS Tribal Relations to develop a briefing for this virtual Forest Service – Tribal conference.
2. **California THPOs** – BGN staff, Jenny Runyon invited to make a presentation to this group in March, 2021.
3. **NATHPO** – missed the January 2021 meeting. USGS Tribal Relations POC contacted the NATHPO chairperson (president) and she is working with BGN staff to set up a special webinar for NATHPO in the near future.
4. FS Rocky Mountain Region Tribal Liaison submitted an abstract for a **BGN workshop at the November Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums Conference** in Washington, DC. Details to follow if abstract is accepted.

5. Runyon noted that it is also necessary for BGN members to brief within their own agency about the BGN process. Thad noted that he includes BGN training in NOAA Cartographers class.

Action: Thad share materials, questions asked, etc.?

iv. Briefing/Training Materials

1. Susan Lyon – brochure for Tribes – TBD
2. Runyon – Develop a standard slide deck for presentation
 - a. Develop various briefing materials and make available centrally
 - b. **Action – Monique will expand the draft spreadsheet of upcoming Tribal events where the BGN could do outreach**
 - c. **Thad will share his slides from his briefing to the NOAA Navigation Managers**
3. Story Map Thad and Matt – BGN staff to develop – more to follow next month.

IV. BGN Staff requests Special Committee address the following concerns (Special committee would formulate recommendations to be approved by the DNC):

- a. Does the BGN need to develop a process for resolving discrepancies that sometimes come up with the spelling and/or writing marks for a proposed name in a Tribal language?
 - i. Do we need to seek support from linguistic experts?
 - ii. Do we ask for clarification from Tribes and what if there is no response?
- b. Does the BGN staff need to ask a Tribe's permission when we receive a commemorative name proposal for a Tribal Elder or other important historical figure from the Tribe that comes from someone other than a member of the Tribe (or the Tribal government?)
- c. What does the BGN staff do, how long should the wait for a response from the Tribe regarding these clarification and other follow-on question?

V. Next Meeting in (Date TBD). Schedule conflicts following the Feb and March DNC Meeting. Betsy will send a Doodle Poll.

VI. Adjourn



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
9th Meeting, May 13, 2021 12:30 AM –2:00 PM

I. Introductions

Attendees:

Tara Wallace, DOC/NOAA
Thad Ellerbe, DOC/NOAA
Andrew Flora, DOC/Census
Wendy Hawley, DOC/Census
Susan Lyon, DoD/ USACOE
B.C. Forrest, GPO
Betsy Kanalley, USDA/FS
Monique Vanlandingham, BGN Staff
Jenny Runyon, BGN Staff
Matt O'Donnell, BGN Staff
Julie-Ann Danfora, BGN Staff
Jo Baker, BGN Staff

II. Meeting Objectives

Primary agenda topics for today

1. Brief out on the To Build a Gap Conference and California THPO conference.
2. Review the spreadsheet of conferences developed by Monique Landingham and make some decisions on next steps for using the data to plan outreach.
3. Update on Story Map
4. SCC plan to develop a Tribal Brochure
5. DNC process questions

III. Briefings at Tribal Conferences and Meetings

- a. **Tribal Conference/Meeting Presentations:** Jenny and Betsy provided an overview of the To-Bridge-A-Gap conference. The briefing was well received with some questions in the chat and after the briefing. No feedback directly from Tribes since the conclusion of the conference, unfortunately. FS line officers in attendance resulted in a call to action in FS Southern Region, with formation of a team to address offensive names.
 - i. Tara Wallace suggested asking for a list of attendees.

- b. **Jenny briefed the special committee on her briefing to the California Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs). The briefing was well received with encouraging dialog about the need to read and respond to review list.**
 - c. **Jenny reported that in talking to the president of the National Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO) organization, it was decided to hold off before holding a special session the NATHPO. No time/date has been set.**
- IV. Tribal Outreach Opportunities**
- a. **Monique presented the spreadsheet she developed which is a compilation of tribal meetings, conferences, and other gatherings. Special committee expressed appreciation for the work to gather this comprehensive list that includes many details, hyperlinks to even pages, etc. Special Committee members also discussed how best to develop an outreach strategy. A short term plan would involve selecting 1-3 conferences for next year, and evaluating whether to participate in following years or chose another opportunity for future years, and work on developing a more long term strategy on managing this kind of outreach. Monique will send the spreadsheet out to special committee members who agreed to choose their top 3 conferences and provide them to Monique. Monique will gather the results and report back at our next meeting.**
- V. Story Map Update – Thad reported that the intern(s) working on the story map are meeting with him weekly. There is a draft story map. Thad feels that it is too dense with text and asked for the Power Point from To Bridge a Gap in order to pull the wording from that, which has already been condensed into briefing points, bullets, etc. Betsy will send the pptx to Thad.**
- VI. Tribal Brochure – Susan Lyon briefed the special committee on her plans to create a brochure for Tribal audiences. Betsy agreed to provide her the two briefing papers that were sent to Tribes when the latest Policy X went into effect.**
- VII. We ran out of time before we could begin to address the process questions raised by the BGN Staff last month. Moved to the agenda for June.**
- VIII. Next Meeting will be held following the June DNC meeting on June 10, 2021.**
- IX. Adjourn**



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
10th Meeting Thursday, June 10, 2021 11:30 PM – 1:00 PM

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions
- III. **Activities Review**
 - a. **List of Tribal Conferences – Meetings – Monique Vanlandingham**
 - i. **Review of ranking/rating by committee members.**
 - ii. **Selecting top 3**
 - b. **Story Map on Geographic Names – any updates?**
- IV. Other Topics – BGN Staff process questions
- V. Next Meeting
- VI. Adjourn



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
10th Meeting, June 10, 2021 12:00 AM –2:00 PM

I. Introductions

Attendees:

Tara Wallace, DOC/NOAA
(b) (3) (B), (b) (6), DoD/NGA
Thad Ellerbe, DOC/NOAA
Andrew Flora, DOC/Census
Wendy Hawley, DOC/Census
Susan Lyon, DoD/ USACOE
Wendi-Starr Brown, DOI/BIA
B.C. Forrest, GPO
Betsy Kanalley, USDA/FS
Chris Hammond, DOI/USGS
Monique Vanlandingham, BGN Staff
Jenny Runyon, BGN Staff
Matt O'Donnell, BGN Staff
Julie-Ann Danfora, BGN Staff
Jo Baker, BGN Staff

II. Meeting Objectives

The focus of the meeting was to review the compilation of Tribal-related meetings and conferences compiled by BGN staff as potential venues for BGN outreach. Special Committee members selected their top 3-5 conferences to focus on either attending and/or presenting at in 2021-2022. The top selections were,

1. The National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers Conference (NATHPO) - not sure a date has been set for next annual event)
2. National Congress of the American Indian (NCAI), February National Convention in DC?
3. National Tribal GIS Support Conference.
4. Association of Tribal Libraries Archives and Museums (ATLAM), Nov. 29 – Dec. 3, 2021 (note – this one is already scheduled)
5. SAGE – some interest – other feds – not Tribal governments, but we might have attendees from our agencies who could do outreach on our behalf.

The group then agreed to follow-up on arranging a special webinar for NATHPO at one of their monthly conference calls. Wallace (NOAA) agreed to contact NATHPO president to set-up a briefing.

Other Discussion: [REDACTED] (BGN Chairman) recommended that the special committee hear the BGN Tribal Briefing and have a copy so that we are all trained/prepared to provide this information and so our presentations are consistent. We can also build-on and enhance the briefings.

[REDACTED] also suggested that we focus on promotional materials, news as a way to improve Tribal awareness of the BGN.

Kanalley (FS) can we add “news” carousel on the BGN home page?

Ellerbe (NOAA) provided an update on the BGN Story Map. It is looking really good and close to completion. It should be ready for a preview soon.

Lyon (COE) is continuing to work on tribal brochures, nothing to report.

Kanalley will inform FS Alaska Region Geographic Names Coordinator that it is not possible for the BGN to send the quarterly review list to the Native Alaskan Corporations. These entities are not governments, and policy is that we will send the list to federally recognized Tribal governments.

- III. **Special Committee will formulate recommendations to be approved by the DNC).**
- IV. **Next Meeting will be held following the DNC meeting on July 8, 2021.**
- V. **Adjourn**



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
11th Meeting, June 24, 2021 11:00 AM –1:00 PM

I. Introductions

Attendees:

Tara Wallace, DOC/NOAA
Thad Ellerbe, DOC/NOAA
Andrew Flora, DOC/Census
Wendi-Starr, DOI/BIA
Chris Hammond
Wendy Hawley, DOC/Census
Susan Lyon, DoD/ USACOE
B.C. Forrest, GPO
Betsy Kanalley, USDA/FS
Monique Vanlandingham, BGN Staff
Jenny Runyon, BGN Staff
Matt O'Donnell, BGN Staff
Julie-Ann Danfora, BGN Staff
Jo Baker, BGN Staff

II. Meeting Objectives

Special Meeting to consider BGN Staff questions on procedures/process

- Does the BGN need to develop a process for resolving discrepancies that sometimes come up with the spelling and/or writing marks for a proposed name in a Tribal language?
- How does staff request support from Tribal linguistic experts? Is this necessary

Discussion: The Special Committee felt that it was reasonable for the Staff to request support from Tribe for linguistic questions. If we recommend this, new processes/changes to process should be okayed by the DNC. Runyon (staff) expressed concern about what to do if there is no response. (note – I am not sure we got an answer for that)

- For Tribal proposals, from Tribal government. Do we ask for clarification from Tribes and what if there is no response?
- Does the BGN staff need to ask a Tribe's permission when we receive a commemorative name proposal for a Tribal Elder or other important historical

figure from the Tribe that comes from someone other than a member of the Tribe (or the Tribal government?)

Discussion: The issue is that proponents usually submit proposals that concern Tribes without investigation/consultation with Tribe(s). Flora (Census) and Hawley (Census) recommended that the triage process be more rigorous and that proposals that have not been properly investigated not be processed. Documentation of Tribal support/approval would need to be provided. There was some concern by other special committee members that this could be perceived as a barrier to prevent changes that could be viewed negatively. In order to take this approach, there would need to be added language on the proposal forms and other "how-to" documents, so proponent understands what is required of him/her and has more information about how to proceed with getting Tribal support.

There were further discussions on sending additional email to Tribes and THPOs using the email list developed to send the quarterly review list. Could the message be changed to catch attention on pertinent matters? More conversation needed about this.

Is there anything we can do to make it more personal? Is it ok to send a message to one Tribe about a case that we want them to be aware of, but not necessarily be reaching out to other Tribes about proposals in their area of interest but not as potentially significant, such as a spelling change or a new name that is not Tribal? Additional discussion is needed to also address disgruntled proponents. How much time is staff allotted for this purpose? We need to firm this up, no recommendation was made due to time shortage.

- III. **Special Committee will formulate recommendations to be approved by the DNC).**
- IV. **Next Meeting will be held following the DNC meeting on July 8, 2021.**
- V. **Adjourn**



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
12th Meeting Thursday, July 8, 2021 11:30 PM – 1:00 PM

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions
- III. **Activities Review**
 - a. Final ranking/rating List of Tribal Conferences by committee members.
 - i. Top Picks – what we are doing for 2021-2022
 - b. Story Map on Geographic Names – any updates?
 - c. Brochures and other document development
- IV. Other Topics – FS Cost-Share Agreement with NATHPO – work on Offensive Names
- V. Next Meeting
- VI. Adjourn



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
12th Meeting Thursday, July 8, 2021 11:30 PM – 1:00 PM

Notes

- I. Welcome – meeting started at 12:00 noon
- II. Introductions

Attendees:

Tara Wallace, DOC/NOAA

(b) (3) (B), (b) (6), DoD/NGA

Thad Ellerbe, DOC/NOAA

Andrew Flora, DOC/Census

Wendy Hawley, DOC/Census

Samuel Barrick, DOC Census

Susan Lyon, DoD/ USACOE

Wendi-Starr Brown, DOI/BIA

B.C. Forrest, GPO

Betsy Kanalley, USDA/FS

Glen Guempel BGN/DNC Executive Secretary

Jenny Runyon, BGN Staff

Matt O'Donnell, BGN Staff

Julie-Ann Danfora, BGN Staff

Jo Baker, BGN Staff

Sam Barrick is a new member of the special committee from DOC, Census Bureau and is a member of the Cherokee Nation and is interested in the work of our team. Welcome Sam!

- III. Review of Tribal Engagements Spreadsheet and rankings:
 - a. National Congress of the American Indian – Annual Convention and Market in Sacramento, CA Oct 10, 2021 – check and see if anyone from your agency is attending – try to get briefing materials together for their booth(?)
 - b. Executive Council Winter Session – Feb 13-17, 2022 in Washington, DC – Betsy will check with FS/OTR to see if we can leverage FS participation, others?
 - c. Tribal GIS Conference
 - i. Fall educational symposium
 - ii. April 25-29, 2022 – 12th Annual Conference – BGN Chair presentation
 - d. 2022 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries and Museums -- Nov. 29-Dec 1, 2021 – FS Susan Johnson, Jesse Nett & Betsy and BGN Jenny
- IV. Story Map – Thad – not ready for demo yet, very close. He and Matt have been working with FGDC intern, but that person has moved on and one pivotal edit is still needed.

- V. Brochures and other documents for Tribal Audiences -- Brochures and other document development – Susan Lyon plans to call a meeting of those interested in helping to develop these documents.
- VI. Andy/Sam/Wendy H. – It may be possible to reach out to the Tribal BAS (Boundary & Annexation Survey) Team at Census to leverage their network of Tribal government POCs.
- VII. Other Topics
 - a. Glenn has been in communication with FGDC and 3DEP Tribal POCs. He is looking to the FGDC GeoPlatform as a way to share out information on BGN. He is also asking if we can leverage the existing 3DEP User Engagement Community for outreach to Tribes.
 - b. Glenn reported that the BGN has set up a new site that will be a central location for BGN collaboration and BGN staff has been collecting documents for the site. This will be a central repository for materials – easy access and collaboration
[BGN Collaboration Site](#)
- VIII. Next Meeting August 12, 930 AM ET
- IX. Adjourn



J.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
13th Meeting Thursday, August 12, 2021 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions
- III. **Activities Review**
 - a. NATHPO Presentation – August 18, 2021
- IV. Other Topics?
- V. Next Meeting
- VI. Adjourn



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
14th Meeting Thursday September 9, 2021 11:30 AM -12:45PM

Welcome – Special Committee Chair Betsy Kanalley welcomed the members and called the meeting to order.

Attendees:

Betsy Kanalley, USDA FS
Glen Guempel, BGN Exec. Secretary
Jenny Runyon, BGN Senior Staff Researcher
Matt O'Donnell, BGN Staff Researcher
Maria McCormick, DOI USGS BGN GNIS manager
Tara Wallace, DOC NOAA, BGN Chairperson
(b) (3) (B), (b) (6), DOD, NGA BGN Vice Chair
Thad Ellerbe, DOC NOAA
Andrew Flora, DOC Census
Sam Barrick, DOC Census
Susan Lyon, US Army Corps of Engineers
Chris Hammond, DOI USGS Tribal Relations

Activities Review --

The National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers NATHPO Presentation – August 18, 2021 - Tara led the presentation that was well received, but the attendance (22 people) was not as high as we had hoped for. There was one attendee in particular who was very aware of the BGN and the proposal process and was aware of and/or had initiated several proposals in recently.

Tribal GIS Conference – There is a FALL21 Virtual Education Symposium referenced on the Tribal GIS home page, but no dates.

The Annual Conference is slated for April 25-29 in Albuquerque, NM with more information to follow. Action: Betsy will reach out to Garet Couch, Tribal GIS President to see if there is an opportunity to present at either session.

<https://www.tribalgis.com/tribal-gis-conferences>

National Congress of American Indians (NACIS)

Executive Council Winter Session, Feb 13-17, 2022 <https://www.ncai.org/events/2022/02/13/2022-executive-council-winter-session>

Mid-Year Conference, June 12-16, 2022 Anchorage Ak

<https://www.ncai.org/events/2022/06/12/2022-mid-year-conference>

Annual Convention, Oct. 30-Nov 4, 2022 Sacramento, CA

<https://www.ncai.org/events/2022/10/30/79th-annual-convention>

Action: Betsy will check w/FS OTR to determine if there is a plan to attend any of these events and to see if BGN materials could be shared at booth space or if there is a chance to set up a session with the exec council.

Other Topics:

Collaboration Portal

Glen will post Tara's slides at the BGN Collaboration site:

<https://doimspp.sharepoint.com/sites/usgs-BGN-Collaboration-Site?e=1%3Ab1ab514529fc4cf5a0bf27ba3aa791e5>

(note, I have to paste the url in my browser in order for this link to work)

Glen provided a update on the collaboration site and its contents. It will be the go-to site for BGN working documents.

BGN Tribal Brochure

Susan Lyon is looking to hear from members interested in participating in the Communication Committee and working on an informational brochure directed to Tribes.

Story Map

Matt and Thad – Should be ready to share with special committee soon.

Next Meeting will focus on Andy Flora and Wendy Hawley's proposal to develop a process whereby proponents take some part in engaging with Tribe(s) when their proposal involves a Tribe, such as when the proposed name is in a Tribal Language or honors the history/culture of a Tribe.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 14, 2021, following the DNC meeting.

Adjourn



J.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
15th Meeting Thursday, October 14, 2021 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

1. Welcome
2. Introductions/Roll Call
3. Discussion on Process for Proponent to participate in outreach to Tribes on proposals that concern Tribes (history, culture, language)
4. Other updates– briefing materials, story map, outreach other
5. Your Topics
6. Adjourn



BGN/DNC Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
15th MEETING – October 14, 2021

1. Welcome – Special Committee Chair Betsy Kanalley welcomed the members and called the meeting to order.

2. Attendees:

Betsy Kanalley

Glenn Guempel

Jenny Runyon

Julie Ann Danfora

Matt O'Donnell

Tara Wallace

Thad Ellerbe

Andrew Flora

Sam Barrick

Susan Lyon

Ron Salz

3. Proponent obtaining Tribal Support – proposal.

Andy Flora and Wendy Hawley provided the following proposal for discussion:

Proposal – proponents who want to use a Tribal name, will reach out to Tribes to obtain Tribal support and to obtain guidance on making sure the spelling is correct, etc.

Objective

Lessen workload for BGN staff – may eliminate less- than- well -prepared proposals

Improve awareness and sensitivity about tribal names

Hopefully also bump up the level of engagement by proponent

Expand Policy X – ID tribes as authority over names in their language and its appropriateness as proposed. In process, Tribe may come forward with a better counter proposal.

Need to provide, through BGN staff, who to contract

Jenny

Problem – we get very few proponents who contact BGN staff before name comes in

Questions

How would SNAs be involved? Jenny suggests maybe not that much, except in cases where state boards do engage Tribes.

Andy

Make it easier for potential proponent to connect with Tribes.

“one stop shop” for the proponent with a package of information

MUST HAVE an Up-to-dated contact w/Tribes -- as noted this have proven to be difficult to maintain

Need to be careful about over-burdening Tribes - must involve Tribes that we are considering this as a new policy/procedure – make sure they are ok with it and see what ideas they may have about best way to do this.

Shifting burden to the proponent

Doing the tribal outreach is no guarantee that the proposal will be approved.

Jenny – expressed many practical concerns. Drafting out the policy is the best way to get flush out the details.

Highest Elected Official (HEO) or whom ever has been delegated authority to provide an opinion.

Jenny also suggests a gate keeping process before they can access the proposal form, make sure they have completed a number of steps.

Recommendation --

1. Andy will resend the proposal statement and ask for comments/edits, etc.
2. Develop a gate-keeper statement on website about Tribal names – working from Andy’s document
 - a. Note: direct proponent to BIA website with contact information on Tribal Contacts --
3. Focus Group planning – with Tribes – suggestions on the proposal, get Tribe’s input – next meeting discuss – identify who will be likely people to invite/get input from
 - a. Compile input from engagements

4. Thad Ellerbe – Demo of Story Map

Thad provided a demo of the story map on Da-Ek Dow Go-et Peak. Kudo’s to the team on the preparation. There were some recommendations on font size. What else did I miss here?

Next Step – Thad will try to get access/make available for us to share/review internally within our agency. Other actions?



J.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
16th Meeting Thursday, December 9, 2021 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

1. Welcome
2. Introductions/Roll Call
3. Update on Process for Proponent to participate in outreach to Tribes on proposals that concern Tribes (history, culture, language) -- policy document
4. Tribal Request for consultation? See Doc.
5. Other updates– briefing materials, story map, outreach other
6. Adjourn



J.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
19th Meeting Thursday, March 10, 2022, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

1. Welcome
2. Introductions/Roll Call
3. Discuss next steps for the Cultural Sensitivity Guidance Document
4. Wilderness Society – NATHPO doc
 - a. Can we publish a concise guidance doc for Tribes?
5. Other topics --
6. Adjourn



J.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
20th Meeting Thursday, April 14, 2022, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

1. Welcome
2. Introductions/Roll Call
3. Update on sharing guidance document with NATHPO
4. BGN Staff – issues on communication with Tribes – any updates?
5. Wilderness Society Webinar “A conversation on racist place names on public lands”
 - Webinar “Racist and offensive place names: The movement to rename mountains, rivers and valleys.
 - Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 3PM ET
 - [REGISTER HERE](#)
 - Wilderness Society has published this guidance: [“A Guide to Changing Offensive Place Names in the United States](#)
6. Other topics --
7. Adjourn



J.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
21st Meeting Thursday, July 14, 2022, 11:0 AM – 12:30 PM

1. Welcome
2. Introductions/Roll Call
3. Update on sharing guidance document with NATHPO
4. BGN Staff – issues on communication with Tribes – any updates?
 - CoGNA Tribal Names Workshop -- ideas
5. Other topics --
6. Adjourn

US Board on Geographic Names (BGN) Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication

July 14,2022

Attendees

Jenny Runyon
Marielle Pedro Black
Matt O'Donnell
Tara Wallace
Thad Ellerbe
Chris Hammond
Glenn Guempel
Wendy Starr Brown
Betsy Kanalley - Chair

Tribal Workshop at COGNA

Regular communication -- frustration over imperfection of the DOI system for comms with Tribes as it is not maintained. The key point is that BGN Staff do make a good faith effort and do due diligence for the

BIA List – 30+ Tribes that don't have an email address

Census has a contact list but it too has errors.

Action: Matt will post a list of the Tribal contacts that regularly bounce back/fail. Chris Hammond and all will review and see if we have Tribal leader contacts or POCs within the Tribal government who might can find the correct email address.

Action: Matt will send the list of chronic bounce backs to Chris who will try to resolve. Mat will send to the rest of the special committee too and we will see if we have any contacts who might be able to help find a good email address for that Tribe's leadership. Note: Jenny suggested that we put the list into the new collaboration site.

Matt asked if there a way that FLMA's and others who have contacts within Tribes could reach out to them and share the review list.

Marielle and Betsy felt that for the FS we could investigate sharing the review list with Tribal Relations POCs and Heritage POC pdls when it is released.

Action: Betsy will set up a special meeting BGN Members from BLM, NPS Corp of Engineers, NOAA, BOEM, etc. to discuss the role BGN members might play in helping improve communication with Tribes.



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
22nd Meeting Thursday, August 11, 2022, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

1. Welcome
2. Introductions/Roll Call
3. Guest Presenter – Joe Younkle, Special Assistant to DOI Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
4. Cultural Sensitivity Guidance document – NATHPO
5. BGN member agency support for disseminating the Review List – progress report
6. Tribal Lead Directory – failed emails
7. Adjourn



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
22nd Meeting Thursday, August 11, 2022, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

1. Welcome
2. Introductions/Roll Call
 - Betsy, Glenn, Jenny, Matt, Tara, Thad, Susan L. Wendy H., Andy Flora, Joe Younkle
3. Guest Presenter – Joe Younkle, Special Assistant to DOI Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
 - Joe provided an overview of the process OSEC used to announce listening sessions – Dear Tribal Leader Letters, etc.
 - Did not use the BIA Tribal Leader Directory. BIA Regional Directors forwarded the letters to the Tribes in their Region.
 - Could we ask Regional Directors to do this with the Review list/
4. Cultural Sensitivity Guidance document – NATHPO
 - Andy will put together a note for NATHPO requesting that it be sent to their POCs.
5. BGN member agency support for disseminating the Review List – progress report
 - Some details to be worked out, asked FLMA's, Census, NOAA ACOE
 - i. NOAA is verifying w/their Tribal Liaison staffs
 - ii. Census is willing but needs approval
 - iii. FS – will coordinate through OTR
 - iv. NPS has asked Tribal Relations POC- no response yet
 - v. Corps of Engineers – not at this time/not a good fit w/what their comms with Tribes
6. Tribal Lead Directory – failed emails
 - Matt provided an overview of the problem bounce backs. Should we try to fix them or try BIA Regional Leaders route? Best to have a multi-pronged approach to outreaching to Tribes – try all routes and do not worry about duplication
7. Plan to meet before next DNC meeting – not usual time Sept 8 will be all about SO3404 – Betsy will send an invitation
8. Adjourn

BGN Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
April 13, 2023

Attendees

Tara Wallace, NOAA
Thad Ellerbe, NOAA
Jessica Campbell, FWS
BC Forrest, GPO
Andy Flora, Census Bureau
Wendy Hawley, Census Bureau
Chis Hammond, USGS Tribal Liaison
Susan Lyon, USACOE
Janet Agin, Smithsonian
Gita Urban Mathieux, Acting Exec Sec for Domestic Names
Jenny Runyon, BGN Senior Staff Researcher
Matt O'Donnell, BGN Staff Researcher
Betsy Kanalley, USDA FS

1. Recap on the Mount Halo vote led to discussion on whether there needs to be a change to how and when BGN staff does direct outreach to Tribes.

a. Betsy -should SCNANTC formulate a process to recommend to the BGN/DNC?

Staff has concern about missing a Tribe especially when there are many Tribes with overlapping ancestral/cultural/treaty interests.

b. Susan Lyon suggested that in cases where there is a very specific and obvious Tribal connection, the policy should allow for staff to contact/outreach to that particular Tribe or Tribes. Otherwise, go w/policy X.

c. Jess Campbell noted that some cases staff could ask the Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) to do the outreach if the feature is on or near FLMA or there is a relationship between the local FLMA unit and Tribe.

Matt – proposed process steps

Step 1: provide cultural sensitivity document to the proponent.

Step 2a: if proponent tries and doesn't succeed, staff asks Special Committee how to follow up(?)

Step 2b: if proponent doesn't try, staff asks Special Committee who to contact, if anyone (?)

Step 2c: if proponent gets a response, staff asks Special Committee to help evaluate source.

Step 3: BGN decides if the Tribal input received (by proponent or staff) is sufficient to approve the name of native origin/significance.

Chris – proponent needs a compelling argument for his/her proposal, including demonstrating best effort to obtain Tribal support for their proposal. Staff, FLMA will augment as much as possible. **Suggest we proceed with what we have with cultural sensitivity guidance.**

BC – could we add something about the SCNANTC review/triage and felt it was ready to go? Jenny – this may not be needed. **Action – let's decide on this concept next month**

Thad – consistent messaging when sharing this with our agencies. Jenny will share with Special Committee. Action – **Jenny will share what she wrote up.**

Thad asked about the need for brochures, the one for all audiences one (general) needs updating and one focused on Tribal Audiences to be developed.

Action: We need to develop a Document on BGN process and policy X for Tribes. special committee

Should we revisit the brochure format? Maybe have a web version and printer friendly version, and a QR code for conference?

Business cards? Maybe we can do up business cards with QR code on the back?

Andy – Census is getting out to conferences more and more. Advise not doing a lot of printing. Not the greenest solution, must be stored, and documents are quickly out of date.

Chris reported out on outreach he has done.

Success on attending the FS/TRIBAL Bridging the Gap conference. Had many good discussions with Tribes, THPOs in particular and Valerie Goering, Executive President of NATHP. He agree to do a write up on conversations with Sault Saint Marie Tribe regarding the benefit to THPOs to be involved in geographic names.

Chris will be attending a Tribal Self-Governance conference in Oklahoma next month and will do more outreach and report back.

Jenny asked Chris to help develop **consistent wording** on response to media. Do agencies need something consistent regarding inquiries we receive? Yes

Meeting adjourned at 1PM.

Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
05/11/2023 Meeting

Thad Ellerbe, NOAA
Jessica Campbell, FWS
BC Forrest, GPO
Andy Flora, Census Bureau
Wendy Hawley, Census Bureau
Chis Hammond, USGS Tribal Liaison
Susan Lyon, USACOE
Janet Agin, Smithsonian
Gita Urban Mathieux Acting Exec Sec for Domestic Names
Jenny Runyon, BGN Senior Staff Researcher
Matt O'Donnell, BGN Staff Researcher
Betsy Kanalley, USDA FS

Topics:

Recommendation to DNC on targeted outreach to Tribes by Staff –

- Outreach to Tribe --- Chris H. **suggests BGN staff support/assist proponent. Betsy will prepare a recommendation paragraph for what should go into the PPP or to DNC.**
 - Recommend Staff give the same advice that PA gives (refer proponent to a particular Tribe or Tribes). I also think you should feel free to go back to the proponent and recommend diacritical corrections--I think your average proponent doesn't appreciate diacritics like you/we do. (From Teams Chat)
 - Ideally the proponent will achieve success, but if they demonstrate due diligence, this is enough.
- Are there additional resources we can provide online (at BGN site) to help the proponent?
- Melanie R. -- What is a fair period of time to allow for input? No definite answer on this yet. 60 days?
- **Action Betsy/BGN Staff capture this recommended support to proponents.**
- **Action -- Betsy**– group of BIA regional directors – formalize an agreement for their support – obtain their agreement to field questions from the proponent, staff.

Communication Materials to ease the burden of staff, updating brochures may not be worth in, but update the information on individual webpages on each policy/principle and point people to that site.

A special “how to” page for Tribes that ties to Policy X.

BGN Business Card with a QR code –

BC customize the QR codes for specific topics/pages

Thad – Chair of Special Committee on Communications is working with BGN staff and exec to develop pages. SCNANTC members should contact Thad.

Priority for pages

1. Commemorative Names

COGNA – try to have business cards ready for this date?

Gita noted that the BGN website evolution is ongoing getting better all the time!

Tribal Conference Engagement – next year

Pull conference spreadsheet and update – post to the BGN Collaboration site

1. Bridging the Gap – NATHPO – write up on Sault Saint Marie contribution to the Derogatory Names Task Force.

2. Tribal Self Governance Conference – BGN “101” Policy X
3. Tribal GIS Conference, ABQ
4. ATLAM
5. NATHPO [Home - NATHPO](#) – webinar or some other presentation
6. Udall Foundation – share information via this org
7. BGN business cards for Esri Conf – Greg Matthews
 - a. *5/12 update from Gita these will be postcard most likely.*
8. NCAI – ask Valerie G? <https://www.ncai.org/conferences-events/ncai-events>



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
August 10, 2023, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

1. Welcome
2. Introductions/Roll Call
3. Presentation at COGNA
4. Unicode
5. Tribal Lands discussion—questions for DOI
6. Policy X update
7. Other topics --
8. Adjourn

Action: Jenny agreed to make sure we have paper copies of Policy X and Cultural Sensitivity Guidelines available at COGNA in advance of the presentation

We spent the entire meeting going over the presentation slides – thanks to Tara, Susan and Andy for putting this together.

Unicode discussion set up a separate call:

The Problem: Policy X appendix G -- for the most part we can make what we need from those combining diacritics. When you can't combine diacritics to create the character, and it is not in appendix G (these are cases within Tribal "area" where they do not need approval – just give us their name) Maria makes the character if she can but sometimes she can't. We are tied to a font, have not gotten to the problem yet but we will, font includes some additional glyphs.

Gai Mea Waith Go'i we need to talk to the Shoshone Bannock about this
So the discussion is how do we handle these names when there is no Unicode character and Maria cannot create it by combining diacritics.



J.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
February 8, 2024, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

1. Welcome
2. Introductions/Roll Call
3. 2024 – SCNANTC Objectives – Planning Discussion
4. Adjourn

Topics:

Policy X Review

Tribal Conference attendance

Bridging the Gap – April 1-4, 2024

Tribal GIS – April 29-May 2, 2024

Other?



J.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
August 29, 2024, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

1. Welcome
2. Introductions/Roll Call
3. NATHPO Conference Report out - any actions?
4. BGN/PCGN Conference SCNANTC paper
5. 2024 – SCNANTC Report to BGN at COGNA -- Discussion
6. Cultural Sensitivity Guidance – do we need further discussion—feedback from Tribes?
7. Adjourn

Walk on Topics:

Annual Report to Secretary -activities SCNANTC joint report w/ Special Committee on Communication

Attendees

Wendi
Thad
Tara
Shellie
Rikki
Thad
Chris
BC

NATHPO

Shellie – great conference. Field trips to sacred sites and army munitions site, ho chunk nation recently acquired and it cleaning it up, reestablishing flora and fauna.

Presentations, discovery of canoes, conducted age dating – over 1000 years old. Good one-on-one information. YES – they are receiving the review lists, mostly. Incredibly

busy. Names is not a priority – focused on NAGPRA, repatriation of remains and artifacts. Wonderful ceremony/exhibition. Played tribal games, meals, prepared

traditionally. Chris' presentation went well. Devils Lake, -- in a Wisconsin State Park. Ho Chunk prefer their native name. Make it a variant easily. Tried to get the official request

from Ho Chunk Nation. Will continue to outreach with Tribe about getting the name entered as a variant quickly and easily. Also, offered proposal form and how to make it official.

Effigy Mounds – example where damage was done – trying to preserve and educate



At least one other possible name proposal came from a THPO in the Pacific NW – there is an offensive name in the Puget Sound area.

Maybe breakout sessions next year. Workshop next year in Reno? Help prepare for that. Maybe a webinar w/THPOs and/or get input from Tribes in advance so there are named teed-up to work on at the workshop.

SC report to BGN (at COGNA) – highlight presence there and continued participation. Hit on a couple of specifics -- i.e. point out that most THPOS say they are getting the review lists. Maybe some other feedback such as the word on Cultural Sensitivity Guidance – feedback – Chris’s presentation resulted in “no tomatoes” on that subject and Shellie reported that the feedback she heard was supportive of the guidance. This was good news after hearing that the Eastern Band of Cherokee THPO who was not as supportive.

Chris will prepare a few bullets for Betsy to put into the monthly report.

User engagement – can we talk about the translation/pronunciation user engagement effort – where are we on that?

Decision – Include it in the SCNANTC report and ask Mike T to review – draft by middle of next week.

Should SCNANTC chair provide an oral report to BGN at COGNA? Maybe or maybe not, depends on the length of docket and how many other reports there are. Also, should the report cover just last month or an annual overview? **BGN staff will let us know next week.**

Annual report to the Sec. If we get OK from Exec. Comm to do annual report to DOI, then 2021 is completed, needs to get into a template. Jump into 2024 and concurrently prepare 2023 and 2024.

Thad got report from Mike Tischler – 2022 report on 3404 - it is at the collaboration site. BC suggested something similar – notes from Shellie and Chris? Maybe?

Betsy will send the BGN/PCGN Paper out to all and if you can think of some questions that the PCGN folks might ask, that will help me prepare. Also, in October we can review the narrative/overview I will present.



U.S. Board on Geographic Names Domestic Names Committee
Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication
October 10, 2024 11:30 – 1:PM (ET)

1. Welcome
2. Introductions/Roll Call
3. BGN/PCGN Preparation
4. BGN Workshop at NATHPO – Prep?
5. Walk-on items
 - a. From 08/29 notes -- User engagement – can we talk about the translation/pronunciation user engagement effort – where are we on that? Decision – *Include it in the SCNANTC report and ask Mike T to review*
 - b. AK names
6. Adjourn

Attendees

Wendi
Matt
Jenny
Rikki
Tara
Shellie
Wendy Hawley
Betsy
Chris

1. BGN/PCGN – Betsy Review BCs questions and if I hit stumpers ask committee
2. BGN Workshop at NATHPO – Prep?
 - a. Sponsor again hopefully
 - b. Have Tribes come with Draft Proposals in hand
 - c. Confirm with Valerie G
 - d. In Reno in 2025 – check in with Christine
3. Alaska Native Villages and Corporations – revision of PPP

4. AK Historical Commission does outreach to AK Native Groups and BGN staff does too but the Land Status is the key question

Policy needs for AK

- a. Lands under tribal jurisdiction
 - i. Wendy Hawley – only minimal overlap between Tribal Villages and Tribal Corporations. Not all corporations are a one-to-one relationship with the villages. Native Alaskan corporations are businesses vs. communities
 - ii. Chris – what if a corporation and village do not see eye to eye. DOI defers to the village
 - iii. Jenny – would like to expand distribution of RL to State Indian Commissions
 1. Wendi-Starr Brown noted that there is concern about State recognized groups and potential complications, lending inappropriate legitimacy
- b. Communication
- c. Census – will attend at AFN conf, Oct 21, 2024 on census statistical areas, native village. While in Anchorage – providing a briefing to Alaska Native Justice Center – **Betsy send Rikki the QR codes** (Betsy)
- d. Alaska Historical Commission has asked for clarity w/ regard to BGN policies, Policy X. It is very complex and further discussion is needed. Chris H—nuance our wording in PPP revision.
- e. Marielle note HI is different too.

Ongoing discussion on the PPP Policy X and AK

5. TNM User engagement – can we talk about the translation/pronunciation user engagement effort – where are we on that?
 - a. Has been handed over to BGN Staff for BGN input UE group is still active with new names as they come up. Audio files, tables by state with names, audio links, etc
 - b. Mock-ups of website and draft text --
 - c. **Shellie and BGN staff -- Presentation to this group when ready**
6. Indigenous Knowledge policy, etc
 - [54 USC Ch. 3001: POLICY \(house.gov\)](#)
 - [eCFR :: 36 CFR Part 800 -- Protection of Historic Properties](#)
 - [36 CFR Part 800 -- Protection of Historic Properties](#)
 - [U.S.C. Title 54 - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND RELATED PROGRAMS \(govinfo.gov\)](#)

Other Tribal Conference to engage/present

Tara --may be attending AAG this year and may be able to do a presentation during the indigenous interests track report back next month

Tribal GIS? (Garet Couch, Ryan Spring) Chris H