

On Thu, Sep 4, 2025 at 3:31 PM Tara Cole <[Tara.Cole@ohs.org](mailto:Tara.Cole@ohs.org)> wrote:

**TO: Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly**

**Tribal Chairs of Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon**

**Members of Oregon County Commissions**

**County Historical Societies in Oregon**

**FR: Kerry Tymchuk**

**Boyle Family Executive Director, Oregon Historical Society**

**Executive Secretary, Oregon Geographic Names Board**

The Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB), a volunteer board composed of historians, geographers, tribal members, educators, journalists, and scientists from across Oregon, is seeking your help as we embark on a process to rename 91 geographic features in Oregon that currently have names that are considered racially insulting and derogatory. This responsibility was assigned to us by HB 3532, which was adopted by the Oregon State Legislative Assembly on June 2, 2025, and subsequently signed into law by Governor Kotek. Specifically, HB 3532 directed the OGNB to take the following actions:

- Compile a list of Oregon geographic features that currently bear “offensive names,” which are defined as “insulting and derogatory to any of Oregon’s nine federally recognized Indian tribes or to any race, nationality, or ethnicity.”
- Begin a process of determining new names for those geographic features and submit proposals to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for all geographic features on the list no later than three years from the date of passage of HB 3532.
- Provide the list of offensive names along with a summary of the process by which geographic features are named and detailed instructions on how Oregonians may propose a name for a geographic feature to “all members of the current Legislative Assembly, Oregon’s nine federally recognized Indian tribes, all members of the

governing bodies of all Oregon counties, and all county historical societies in Oregon.”

In compliance with HB 3532, this communication includes the following attachments:

1. A list of geographic features in Oregon that currently bear names that may fit the definition of “offensive.” This list also includes the geographic coordinates, county of location, and known ownership of those features.
2. Information on the OGNB, including frequently asked questions about the process by which geographic features are named and the form Oregonians can use to propose a new name for a geographic feature.

It is the hope of the OGNB that you will widely share this communication with individuals and organizations who might have an interest in submitting new names for those geographic features currently bearing an “offensive” name. The geographic naming process can be a lengthy one, so to meet the deadline set by HB 3532, the OGNB requests that proposals be submitted and received by May 1, 2026.

More information on the OGNB can be found at [ohs.org/ognb](https://ohs.org/ognb). Questions or requests for more information can be directed to [ognb@ohs.org](mailto:ognb@ohs.org).

**Tara Cole**

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