

Advisory Committee on Reconciliation in Place Names
Discussion Topics for Inaugural Meeting, Dec 7 & 8, 2022

Proposed Scope of Work (Locations Examined by the Committee)

Per [Secretary's Order No. 3405](#) and the Committee's [charter](#), the Committee will focus on derogatory names for the following:

1. *Geographic Names* – names applied to topographic features, areas, and spaces on the earth's surface, such as rivers, mountains, valleys, streams, etc. It does not include human-constructed features such as gardens, trails, bridges, or buildings.
2. *Federal Land Unit Names* – includes (1) National Forest System land; (2) units of the National Park System; (3) components of the National Wilderness Preservation System; (4) parts of the National Landscape Conservation System; and (5) units of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

With the concurrence of its Designated Federal Officer, the Committee may also examine names used for human-constructed features (visitor centers, campgrounds, trails, bridges, gardens, etc.) that are located on Federal lands and waters.

Draft Working Definition of "Derogatory" (Names Examined by Committee)

In the context of the work of the Committee, **the term "derogatory" will mean a disparaging or pejorative term used to label a group of people** by race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or other arbitrary characteristics, in a disrespectful and demeaning manner.

Proposed Subcommittees

- **Federal Land Unit Names Subcommittee** - examines derogatory and potentially derogatory names for federal lands
- **Geographic Feature Names Subcommittee** - examines derogatory and potentially derogatory names for geographic features (e.g. mountains or streams) on all lands within the U.S.
- **Processes and Principles Subcommittee** - helps refine definitions/terms in support of the other subcommittees as needed; develops recommendations to improve existing federal naming/renaming processes