



PO Box 201800 • 1515 E 6<sup>th</sup> Ave • Helena, MT 59620-1800  
406-444-5355 • <http://nris.mt.gov>

January 15, 2010

Mr. Lou Yost  
Acting Executive Secretary  
Domestic Names Committee  
United States Board on Geographic Names  
523 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192-0523

Dear Mr. Yost,

As Montana's State Geographic Names Authority, I recommend that the Domestic Names Committee approve the proposals from Review List 400 to replace the word "Squaw" with "Nancy Russell" in the names of three streams in Garfield County, Montana. These streams would be named "Nancy Russell Creek", "Dry Fork Nancy Russell Creek", and "Little Nancy Russell Creek" if the proposals are approved.

The Montana Water Resources Division, the Montana Trust Lands Division, and the Indian Country Economic Development Program of the Montana Department of Commerce have notified me that they support the proposals. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and the Montana State Historic Preservation office have notified me that they are not opposed to the proposals. All of these agencies provided their recommendations without comment as to their reasoning.

The Garfield County Commission is opposed to the change. I spoke to Commissioner Robert Cosgriff on the telephone on December 30, 2009. He said the Commission opposes the change because people will continue calling the streams by their old names and there will be confusion if the government starts using different names. He said he understands that state law requires the names to be changed and that he believes the government will probably approve and use the new names despite the Commission's objection.

I support the proposals because of the derogatory nature of the current names, because State of Montana attorneys have interpreted the "Squaw Name Change Law" as requiring the State to approve the HB412 Committee's decisions, and because it is appropriate that a major feature in Montana be named after Nancy Russell, the wife and business manager of one of Montana's most famous historical figures, cowboy artist Charles M. Russell.

Sincerely Yours,

Gerald J Daumiller  
Montana State Library