

WASHINGTON STATE
Geographic Name Application



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Proposed Name: Paatstel Creek

New Name

County: WHATCOM

Controversial Name

Township: 40 Range: 3E Section(s): 2, 11, 12, 13

Name Change

Lat. 485852 N, Long. 1222314 W (Begin)

Location Clarification

Lat. 485808 N, Long. 1221944 W (End)

Spelling Clarification

Description

Type of feature (lake, stream, etc.): STREAM

Description of feature (location, length, depth, height, size and/or area covered): LYNDEN WASHINGTON. APPROX. 4.3 MILES (DRAINS PADEBORN LAKE, AND EMPTIES INTO JOHNSON CREEK NEAR SUMAS)

If a stream, number of months it flows on a yearly basis: 12

Is this feature identified by other names or spellings? Please list variant names:

SQUAW CREEK

Has it ever been signed, posted, or publicized? If so, when?

History

Please provide a brief history of the feature and its immediate surroundings, this might include information on the following: 1 Native American; 2 First settlers; 3 Historical background pertinent to feature; 4 History on how the land is/was used; 5 Natural disasters (flood fires, etc.) 6 Any significant cultural events. If appropriate, geology, flora and fauna. Cite sources. Use additional pages if needed.

Origin of name: THE CREEK KNOWN AS "SQUAW CREEK" IS LOCATED IN NOOKSACK TERRITORY. THE NOOKSACK NAME FOR THIS CREEK WAS, Paatstel, WHICH WAS ASSOCIATED WITH A HISTORICAL NOOKSACK VILLAGE NEAR THE SOURCE.

AS TOLD BY NOOKSACK TRIBAL MEMBER DURING AN INTERVIEW WITH, PAUL FETZER. (1950)

If a commemorative name, provide a brief summary of the ENTIRE life of the person including how and the length of time he/she was associated with the proposed feature:

Justification of Proposed Name

What is the usage of feature? _____

Please state why the proposed name will best serve the public interest: THE PROPER HISTORICAL NAME IS IMPORTANT TO BE USED AS RECOGNITION TO THE FIRST PEOPLE OF THIS TERRITORY, THE NOOKSACKS.

BESIDE THE FACT THAT THE WORD, "SQUAW" IS OFFENSIVE.

How long has the proposed name been in use? By whom? By THE NOOKSACK, FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, TO THE TIME THE FIRST SETTLERS CHANGED IT.

Please list all sources of information used for your research: (maps, books, articles, periodicals, etc. for background history relating to proposed name) THE NOOKSACK ELDERS VERBAL TESTIMONY. FAMILY KNOWLEDGE, & FIRSTHAND HISTORY OF NOOKSACK PEOPLE.

(NOOKSACK PLACE NAMES: GEOGRAPHY, CULTURE & LANGUAGE - ALLEN RICHARDSON, BRENT GALLOWAY-2008) PAUL FETZER NOTES, INTERVIEW WITH NOOKSACK ELDERS.

What type of support is there for the proposed name?

List all groups and persons who are familiar with the proposed feature and its usage. Please provide names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and his/her association with knowledge of the geographic feature:

NOOKSACK INDIAN TRIBE
360-592-5176

GEORGE SWANASET, JR "Yel'qaynem"
Cultural/Natural Resource Director
george.swanasetjr@nooksack-nsn.gov

Application submitted by:

Name: GEORGE SWANASET, JR

Address: PO BOX 157 City: DEMING State: WA Zip: 98244

Phone #: 360-592-5176 Email: _____ Date of Application: _____

I am aware that all information submitted is considered to be public information.

Printed Name: GEORGE SWANASET, JR

Signature:  Date: 5/23/19

Please mail completed form along with copies of any additional materials to:

WA State Board on Geographic Names

PO Box 47030

Olympia, WA 98504-7030

(Phone: 360-907-1280 - Fax: 360-907-1778 - Email: hnen@dnr.wa.gov)

DNR RE BOGN

From: Carol Frazey <CFrazey@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2019 11:36 AM
To: DNR RE BOGN
Cc: rcline@nooksack-nsn.gov; george.swanasetjr@nooksack-nsn.gov
Subject: Changing Squaw Creek to Páatstel Creek in Whatcom County

Dear Committee Members on Geographic Names,

We would like to request to change the name of Squaw Creek to Páatstel Creek in Whatcom County. This request is being made by Nooksack Tribal Council Chairman Ross Cline, Sr., Nooksack Tribal Director/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, George D. Swanaset, Jr., and myself as a Whatcom County Councilmember.

According to Nooksack Director/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, George D. Swanaset, Jr.:

"I am sending this email in regards to changing the name of "Squaw Creek" to its original Nooksack Name which is: "Páatstel Creek" which was the name "squaw creek" to not only the Nooksack people, but native people in general is viewed as a derogatory term. The Nooksack people have occupied this area long before any settlers have and have place names that pre-date USGS maps.

The name Páatstel was the name of a village where ancestral Nooksack, Jobe (Chúm) resided. The village was located somewhere north of the Jobe Cemetery, east of Northwood Road, and south of the Northwood store on East Badger road.

According to Paul Fetzer's interview with Louis George (Jobe's grandson) in 1950, Páatstel Creek was the name that the families had used for this creek.

If you would like more information, you can find this in the "Nooksack Place Names, Geography, Culture, and Language" book: Allan Richardson & Brent Galloway, which was produced by gathering information from Nooksack elders."

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if there is anything else we need to do to make this name change official.

Thank you,

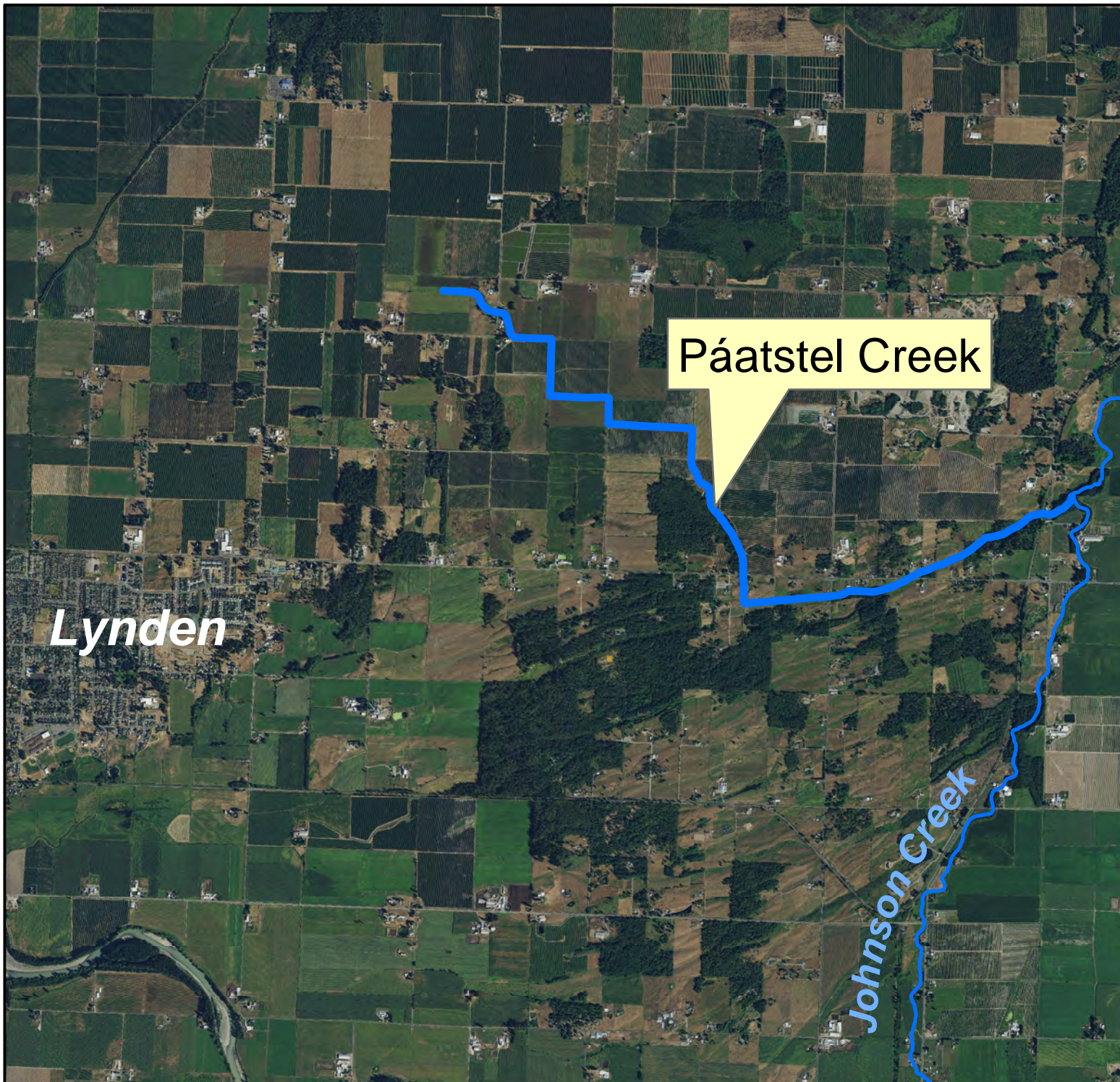
Carol Frazey
Councilmember for At Large Position B

Whatcom County Council

311 Grand Ave. Suite 105

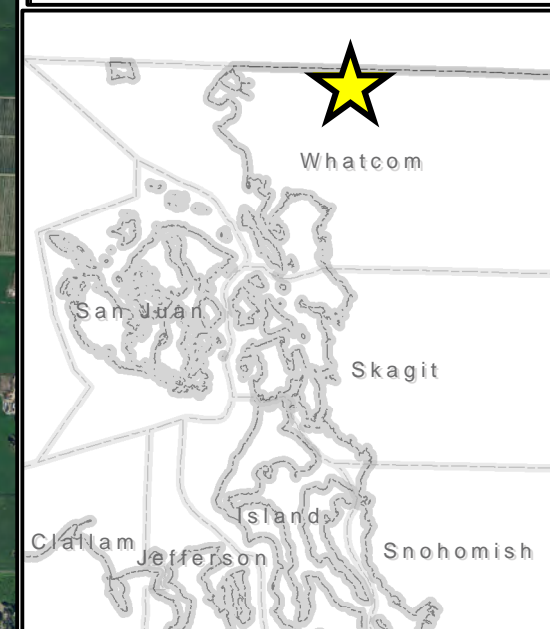
Bellingham, WA 98225

Páatstel Creek - WHATCOM COUNTY

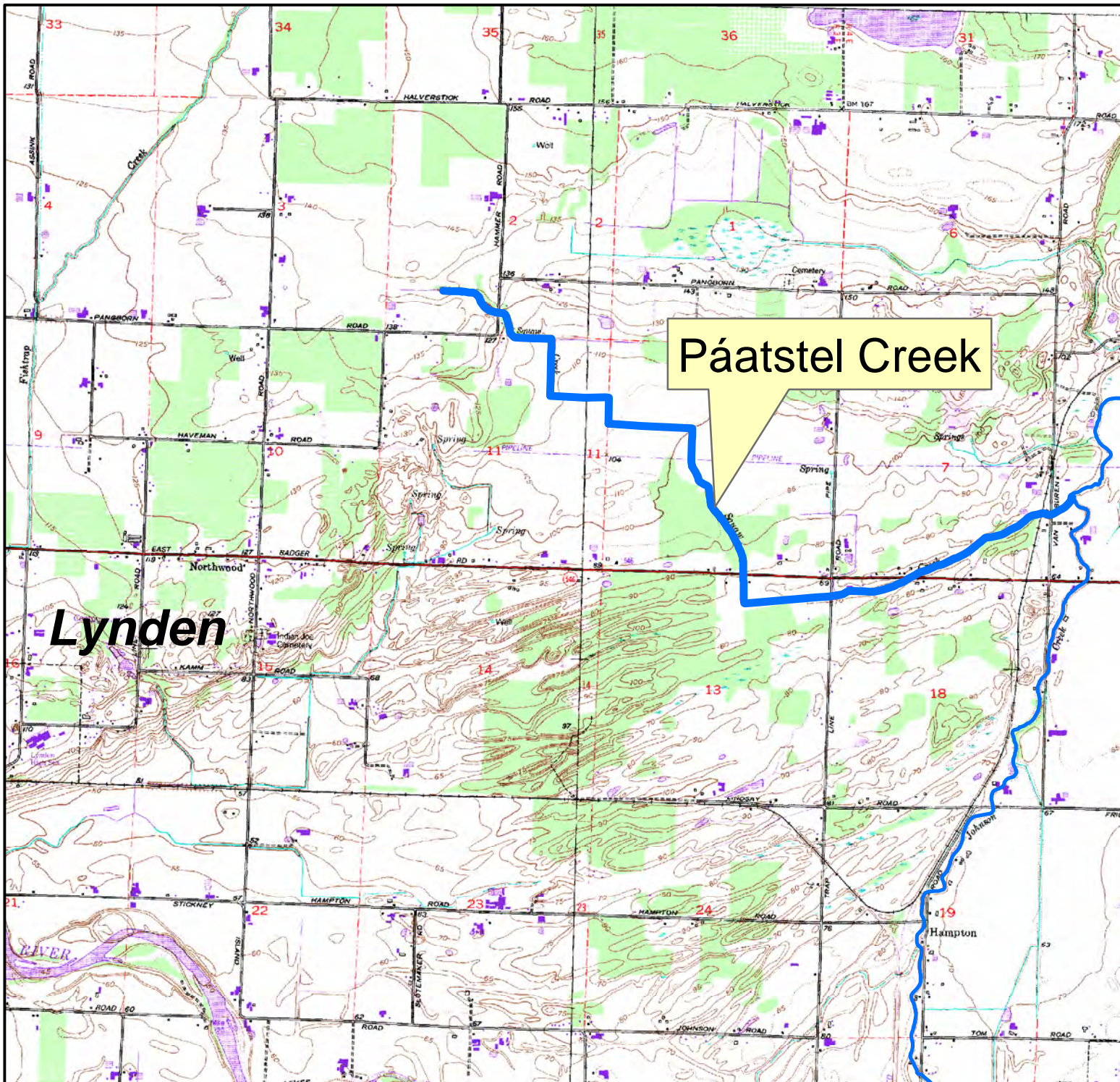


The proposed name would replace the current name of Squaw Creek.

"Páatstel" is the Nooksack name for the creek, which was associated with a historical Nooksack village located near the source of the creek. The Cultural and Natural Resource Director of the Nooksack Indian Tribe submitted the proposal.



Páatstel Creek - WHATCOM COUNTY



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