

Domestic Geographic Name Report

1 Use this form to recommend a feature name or to suggest a name change.

2. For features on Federal lands, coordinate requests with the agency (U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc.) For the administrative area in which the land is located.

3. On the reverse side of this form give information on the local usage and authority for recommended name.

4. For more information about the Geographic Names Information System or the National Gazetteer Program, contact the U.S. Board on Geographic Names at 703-648-4544.

5. Return this form to:

Executive Secretary for Domestic
Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, VA 22092

Action Requested

Proposed New Name: X **Recommended Name:** Tl'useł Vena
Application Change: **State:** Alaska
Name Change: **County or Equivalent:** Lake and Peninsula Borough
Other: **Administrative Area:** State Land Grant as Municipality Entitlement

Specific Area Covered:

Latitude: 60 ° 50 ' 35.9 " N Longitude: -154 ° 47 ' 38.5 " W
Latitude: ° ' " N Longitude: ° ' " W
Center: Heading End
Section(s) 21,28,29 Township(s) 9N Range(s) 31W Meridian Seward Elevation

Type of Feature (stream, mountain, populated place, etc.): Lake

Is the Feature identified (including other names), in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)?
Yes No X Unknown If Yes, how is it listed?

Description of Feature (physical shape, length, width, direction of flow, etc.):
 41.8 miles South-east-south of the community of Lime Village. 8.6 miles South-east-south of Whitefish Lake.

Maps and other sources using recommended name (including scale and date).	Other name (variants)	Maps and other sources using other name or application (including scale and date).
	N/A	N/A

Ellanna, Linda J. "Lake Clark Sociocultural Study: Phase I".
US NPS. 1986

Name information such as origin, meaning of the recommended name, historical significance, biographic data (if commemorative), nature of usage or application, or any other pertinent information:

Located on the Mulchantna River drainage in Southwest Alaska, the small lake is officially unnamed. However, local

Dena'ina residents call the feature, Tl'usel Vena, translating in English to "pants lake" because its shape evokes a pair of Dena'ina pants. The traditional Alaska Native name is not only descriptive, but Native inhabitants have used the name Tl'usel Vena likely for centuries. While the State of Alaska does not formally recognize this name, nor does the Federal Government, the U.S. National Park Service's Lake Clark Sociocultural Study: Phase I, edited by Linda J. Ellanna, documented Tl'usel Vena in local use in 1986. Ellanna and her team worked directly with the communities around Lake Clark to gain traditional knowledge and insight into the area. And while this was a Park Service study, the lake itself is not in a wilderness area. The proposal hopes to raise awareness of the importance of Native place names that often exist even though a geographic location may appear unnamed.

Moreover, this current proposal responds to a previous application to name the feature "Jade Lake," which the Alaska Historical Commission rejected in December 2021. OHA has invited the original proposer to comment on the current proposal but, at this time, has not done so. Dena'ina speaker Michelle Ravenmoon commented on the importance of correctly spelling the Native name to ensure proper descriptive meaning. Language expert, Jim Kari, supports the name Tl'usel Vena, and the Mountaineering Club of Alaska voiced no objection. The present proposer, Francisca Demoski, on behalf of Bristol Bay Native Corporation, explains the importance of recognizing traditional names: "Through place names, we understand the power and meaning of the landscape, as experienced through generation upon generation of our ancestors. Our cultures are still alive today and are increasingly reclaiming and using our Native knowledge, including place names."

Is the recommended name in local usage? Yes No If **Yes**, approximately how many years? 1,000 – 1,500

Is there local opposition to, or conflict with the recommended name (as located)? No current opposition or conflict

For proposed new name, please provide evidence that Feature is unnamed: Proposed name has been used by Dena'ina people but is unrecognized on USGS Map Viewer. GNIS search shows no other features by this name.

Additional information:

AKNLC was consulted on spelling
Resides on State lands

Organizations for Consultation:

Lake and Peninsula Borough
Alaska Native Language Center
Tanalian Incorporated
Lime Village Company
Nondalton Village
Village of Iliamna
Alaska Peninsula Corporation
Newhalen Village
Igiugig Village
Pedro Bay Corporation
Kokhanok Village
Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land, and Water

Copy submitted by: Name (first, M.I., last)	Title	Phone (day)	Date
Francisca Demoski	Land Manager & Director of the BBNC Place Names		12/6/21

Company or Agency	Address (city, State, and Zip)
Bristol Bay Native Corporation	

Copy Prepared by (if other than above)	Title	Phone (day)	Date
Jacobie L. Schwenke	NRS II	(907) 269-8749	3/14/22

Company or Agency	Address (city, State, and Zip)
Alaska Department of Natural Resources/Office of History and Archaeology	550 West 7 th Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

Authority for Recommended Name:	Mailing Address and Telephone	Occupation	Years in Area