

# 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: <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Recommended</b>	<u>Natsede'aayi</u>
Application Change: <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>State:</b>	<u>Alaska</u>
Name Change: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>County or Equivalent:</b>	<u>Matanuska-Susitna Borough</u>
Other: <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Administrative Area:</b>	<u></u>

## Specific Area Covered:

Latitude: 61 ° 46 ' 59.3 " N    Longitude: 147 ° 40 ' 3.2 " W  
Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ ° \_\_\_\_\_ ' \_\_\_\_\_ " NS    Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_ ° \_\_\_\_\_ ' \_\_\_\_\_ " WS  
Center: \_\_\_\_\_ Heading End \_\_\_\_\_  
Section 32&33 Township 20N Range 10E Meridian Seward Elevation 3185'

**Type of Feature** (stream, mountain, populated) Mountain

## Is the Feature identified (including other names), in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)?

Yes	No	Unknown	If Yes, how is it listed?	Lion Head, older maps/references also identify it as Glacier Point. Other referenced names include: Lions Head, Lion's Head, Lion' Head Mountain, Nutsad'iy, Stone Woman, and Tssisyu Ts'akae
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## Description of feature (physical shape, length, width, direction of flow, etc.):

Large mountain at the junction of Caribou Creek and the Matanuska River at Milepost 106 of the Glenn Highway. Elevation of approx. 3185 feet. Approx. 49 miles Northeast of Palmer.

Maps and other sources using recommended name (including scale and date).	Other names (variants)	Maps and other sources using other name or application (including scale and date).
		<b>Lion Head:</b> USGS USA Topo Maps, Scale 1:25,000 (1951, 1962-2013) and Scale 1:63360 (1948, 1952); <i>Dictionary of Alaska Place Names</i> (Orth, 1971).
	<b>Lions Head:</b> <i>Shem Pete's Alaska: The Territory of the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina</i> , 2016; Mat-Su Trails & Parks Foundation website, 2018	
	<b>Glacier Point:</b> USGS, 1951, 1962; <i>Shem Pete's Alaska: The Territory of the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina</i> , 2016	
	<b>Lion's Head:</b> National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, 2022; Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway website, 2011; Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway Interpretive Plan, 2006; Alaska.org website, 2022	
	<b>Lion's Head Mountain:</b> Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway website, 2011	
	<b>Nutsad'iy (Dena'ina name):</b> <i>Shem Pete's Alaska: The Territory of the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina</i> , 2016; Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway Interpretive Plan, 2006; GNIS, 2023; J. Kari & Shem Pete, 1974,	

	Interview Transcription updated in 2023	
<b>Natsede'aayi (Ahtna name):</b> <i>Shem Pete's Alaska: The Territory of the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina</i> , 2016; Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway Interpretive Plan, 2006; Ahtna, Incorporated website, 2021; Chickaloon Native Village News, March 2021; GNIS, 2023		
	<b>Stone Woman:</b> Mat-Su Trails & Parks Foundation website, 2018	
	<b>Tssisyu Ts'akae:</b> Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway website, 2011	

**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:**

This proposal is to change the name of the prominent mountain feature on the Glenn Highway in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough at the confluence of Caribou Creek and the Matanuska River, from “Lion Head” to its traditional, Ahtna name: “Natsede’aayi.” The name means “Rock That is Standing,” in Ahtna, and was proposed by the Tribal Administrator of the Native Village of Tazlina, on behalf of the village council. The proponent states the summit is “culturally significant to the Tazlina people, as well as other tribal community members in the Copper River Valley.” The Tribal Administrator, on behalf of the President of the Native Village of Tazlina, provided OHA with the following statement:

“I think Lion’s Head should be changed back to the Ahtna name. My understanding about this mountain/rock is that Ahtna People used to and some probably still do pray before leaving our lands. The Ahtna name Natsede’aayi [meaning] Rock that is protruding [or] Rock that stands. We believe that Natsede’aayi should be restored to the traditional name.”

The Ahtna name, “Natsede’aayi,” marks trade and travel routes between Ahtna and Dena’ina regions in Southcentral Alaska. The feature has been well-recorded in their oral histories, as reported in *Shem Pete’s Alaska: The Territory of Upper Cook Inlet Dena’ina* (Revised 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2016) by James Kari and James A. Fall with principal contributor Shem Pete. Stories related to Natsede’aayi from *Shem Pete’s Alaska* include references made to it in the story by Jim Tyone, “A Trip from Tyone Village to Knik in 1912” on pg. 223-226, as well as references made on the entry covering this place name on pg. 308 (Kari & Fall, 2016; see supplemental copies of these entries attached to this report). The Dena’ina name related to Natsede’aayi is “Nutsada’iy” (sometimes spelled “Nutsad’iy”) is also referenced in *Shem Pete’s Alaska* (2016), as well as in an interview transcription from Shem Pete in 1974, that was updated by Dr. James Kari in 2023.

The proposed name has a long history of use by Alaska Natives in the area and is descriptive of the feature in the Ahtna language. The Ahtna placename connects the feature to its historic and pre-contact sense of place and importance for the Ahtna people, allowing for the cultural significance of this place to be recognized by a greater population of Alaskans and visitors. The Ahtna placename also has a long

legacy of use, dating back hundreds of years.

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**Is the recommended name in local usage?**    Yes      X      No              If **Yes**, approximately how many years?      100s  

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**Is there local opposition to, or conflict with the recommended name (as located)?** None currently reported. Will update if we receive opposition during consultation.

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**For proposed new name, please provide evidence that feature is unnamed:** N/A

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**Additional information:**

This feature resides on state land, and not in designated wilderness.

Current name of “Lion Head” was reported in 1952 by the U.S. Geological Survey and has been published since 1981 on their 1:24,000-scale topographic maps and in U.S. Board on Geographic Names files ([Geographic Names Information System \(nationalmap.gov\)](http://nationalmap.gov)). USGS maps dating back to 1948 use “Lion Head” for the feature, via maps listed on nationalmap.gov. It has been in use for approximately 75 years.

Orth’s *Dictionary of Alaska Place Names* (1967) lists the mountain “Lion Head” at the junction of Caribou Creek and Matanuska River, stating that this local name was reported in 1952 by USGS (pg. 578).

The Glenn Highway Scenic Byway Interpretive Plan, prepared by the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation in 2006 references “Lion Head” as “Lion’s Head” and notes the traditional Dena’ina name of “Nutsad’iy” and the traditional Ahtna name of “Natsede’aayi” as well regarding Lion Head and its history. (pg. 10. 25-26).

**Organizations for Consultation:**

- Alaska Native Languages Center
- Dr. J. Kari, emeritus
- D. Roy Mitchell, with the Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council
- Ahtna, Inc.
- Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission
- Cheesh’na Tribal Council (Chistochina)
- Chickaloon Native Village
- Chitina Native Corporation
- Cook Inlet Regional, Inc.
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land, and Water
- Gulkana Village Council
- Knik Tribal Council
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- Mentasta Traditional Council
- Mountaineering Club of Alaska
- Native Village of Cantwell
- Native Village of Eklutna
- Native Village of Gakona
- Native Village of Kluti-Kaah (Copper Center)

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Copy submitted by: Name (first, M.I., last)	Title	Phone (day)	Date
Marce Simeon	Tribal Administrator		11/14/2022
Company or Agency	Address (city, State, and Zip)		

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Native Village of Tazlina

Glennallen, AK 99588

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Copy Prepared by (if other than above)

Title

Phone (day)

Date

Judith E. Bittner

SHPO

(907) 269-8721

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Company or Agency

Address (city, State, and Zip)

Alaska Department of Natural Resources/Office of History and Archaeology

550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

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Authority for Recommended Name:

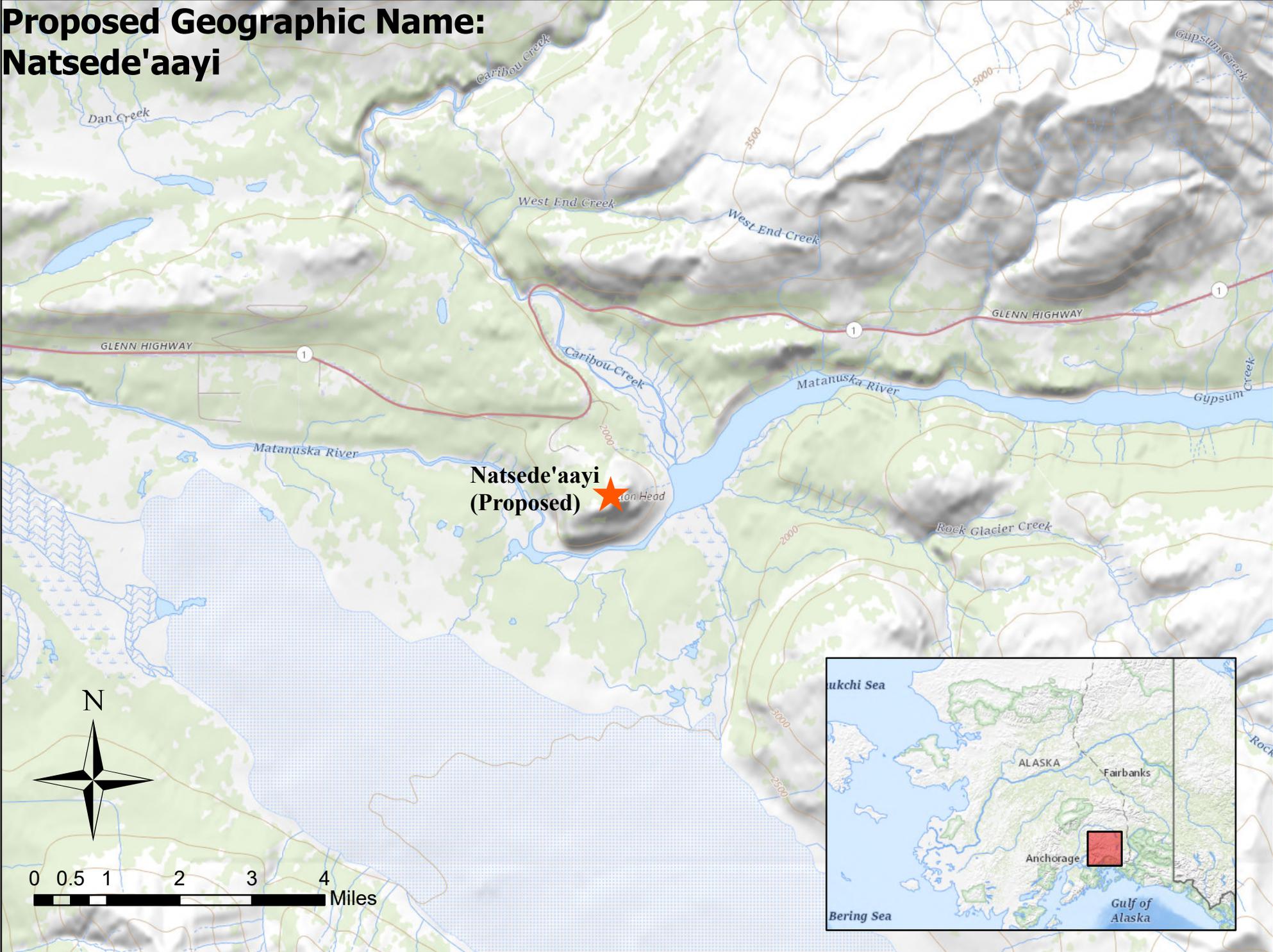
Mailing Address and Telephone

Occupation

Years in Area

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# Proposed Geographic Name: Natsede'aayi



USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road Data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State Humanitarian Information Unit; and NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, U.S. Coastal Relief Model. Data refreshed June, 2022.