

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: _____

Application Change: _____

Name Change: X

Other: _____

Recommended Name: Kaxchim Chiganna

State: Alaska

County or Equivalent: Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

Administrative Area: _____

Specific Area Covered:

Latitude: 51 ° 56 ‘ 49.29 “ N

Latitude: 51 ° 56 ‘ 56.01 “ NS

Center: _____

Longitude: 177 ° 40 ‘ 39.82 “ W

Longitude: 177 ° 40 ‘ 24.44 “ WS

Heading End: _____

Section(s) 18

Township(s) 95 S

Range(s) 235 W

Meridian Seward

Elevation _____

Type of Feature (stream, mountain, populated place, etc.): Creek/Stream

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

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

This creek is found on Little Kiska Island, approximately 242 miles west of Adak. The creek is approximately 1 mile long and flows southeast into the Pacific Ocean.

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).
N/A	Nazi Creek (GNIS, 2024; Orth, 1976)	N/A

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 a creek on Little Kiska Island from its current name of “Nazi Creek” to the proposed Unangam Tunuu name “Kaxchim Chiganaa,” meaning “Gizzard Creek.” Moses Dirks, an Unangam Tunuu (Aleut language) expert recommended the name “Kaxchim Chiganaa” to the proposer based upon the traditional Unangaġ name “Kanchiġ,” meaning “gizzard,” for Little Kiska Island, as listed in *The Aleut Dictionary: Unangam Tunudgusii* (Bergsland, 1994, pg. 650-651). This name was proposed by an Aleut Corporation shareholder and Sand Point Village Tribal member. The proposer specifically states that, “A local Indigenous name from people who have lived in the region for thousands of years is more appropriate than the name of Adolf Hitler’s murderous Third Reich regime responsible for millions of homicides,” and that renaming the feature, “...honors the Unangaġ people.”

According to the GNIS entry on Nazi Creek and the Nazi Creek entry in Orth’s *Dictionary of Alaska Place Names* (1967), “Nazi” is an “arbitrary name beginning with ‘N’ to correspond with the ‘N’ grid used by the U.S. Army for tactical purposes during World War II” (pg. 678). The proposed name, “Kaxchim Chiganaa,” would be a return to traditional place names for the Unangaġ people of the Aleutians.

The proposed name has a long history of use and connection to both Little Kiska Island and to the Alaska Natives of the area, connecting the feature to its historic and pre-contact sense of place and use by the Unangaġ People for hundreds to thousands of years before the present. As an Alaska Native proposed name, the new name of “Kaxchim Chiganna” demonstrates a linguistically and culturally appropriate name for Little Kiska Island, especially considering the traditional Unangaġ name for Little Kiska Island of “Kanchiġ.”

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

Is there local opposition to, or conflict with the recommended name (as located)? None Listed.

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

Additional information:

The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, manages most of Little Kiska Island and all of the land surrounding the currently named “Nazi Creek.”

Organizations for Consultation:

Alaska Native Language Center

Aleut Corporation

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

C/O USFWS Alaska Region Regional Historic Preservation Officer (RHPO) Jeremy Karchut

C/O USFWS Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Refuge Deputy Manager Jeff Williams

US Fish and Wildlife Board of Geographic Names Representative

D. Roy Mitchell, with the Alaska Native Language Preservation Advisory Council

Copy submitted by: Name (first, M.I., last)	Title	Phone (day)	Date
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Company or Agency	Address (city, State, and Zip)
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Copy Prepared by (if other than above)	Title	Phone (day)	Date
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Judith E. Bittner	SHPO	(907) 269-8721	
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Company or Agency	Address (city, State, and Zip)
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Alaska Department of Natural Resources/Office of History and Archaeology	550 West 7 th 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: Kaxchim Chiğanna

