

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22
INTRODUCED BY R. RIPLEY

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THE U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TO RENAME HALFBREED RAPIDS ON THE MISSOURI RIVER AS "PINE ISLAND RAPIDS", THE NAME GIVEN THE RAPIDS BY MEMBERS OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION.

WHEREAS, Meriwether Lewis described a series of rapids in the Missouri River south of what is now the town of Cascade, Montana, in his July 17, 1805, journal near an island that he termed "pine island", and these rapids later were called "Pine Island Rapids" in observations by coleader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, William Clark, who identified the "Pine Island Rapids" as a geographic indicator in his journals while on the Pacific Coast and again on August 12, 1806, and these rapids were referred to as "pine islands and rapids" by Lewis and Clark Expedition member Sgt. John Ordway in his July 17, 1806, journal; and

WHEREAS, the name of the rapids through time and without a confirmed source for the name became "Halfbreed Rapids"; and

WHEREAS, the word "halfbreed" is "[g]enerally regarded as an offensive term because often used contemptuously", according to Webster's New World College Dictionary, Fourth Edition (2001); and

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial provides an opportunity to recognize and rename a geographic feature named in journals by members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the State of Montana urge the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to change the name of "Halfbreed Rapids" to "Pine Island Rapids" in recognition of the name given to the Missouri River rapids by members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward a copy of this resolution to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names and to Montana's Congressional Delegation.

- END -

