

National Mapping Program

# Official Authorities & Other Organizations Involved With Geographic Names – 1984

United States  
Canada  
Mexico

Open File Report 83-881

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Geological Survey  
National Mapping Division  
Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES & OTHER  
ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED  
WITH GEOGRAPHIC NAMES - 1984

- United States
- Canada
- Mexico

By Donald J. Orth

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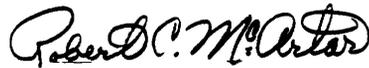
Reston, Virginia  
1984

First printing 1984  
Second printing 1984

## FOREWORD

The primary geographic reference system of people throughout the world is the use of proper names in spoken and written language to identify particular places, features, and areas of the landscape. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names and the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names were established over 85 years ago by their respective Federal Governments to establish and maintain uniform name usage to meet the needs of expanding mapping programs. In today's complex and mobile societies the need for accurate and standard geographic name usage has become a requirement, not only for all levels of government, but also for planning and reference in industry, commerce, communications, education, and research. For large numbers of people, geographic names also have strong psychological and cultural significance and represent a significant part of State and local heritage. Local governments and their citizens have certain proprietary rights and an inherent interest in their own names.

Robert C. McArtor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert C. McArtor".

Chairman, U.S. Board  
on Geographic Names

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OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES and OTHER ORGANIZATIONS  
INVOLVED WITH GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

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U.S. Geological Survey  
521 National Center  
Reston, Virginia 22092

ABSTRACT

There is a need for accurate and standard geographic name usage in all levels of government, industry, commerce, communications, education, and research. There is also a growing number of organizations in North America that are fully or partly involved with the scholarly study of geographic names. This is a list of official national and State or provincial authorities concerned with name standardization and organizations involved with the study of geographic names in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The appendixes are copies of documents that provide additional information about the organization, policies, procedures, and publications of some of these organizations.

INTRODUCTION

This listing was compiled to provide a convenient reference to (1) the geographic names authorities in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, (2) the United Nations activities concerning national standardization of geographic nomenclature in which the three countries are involved, and (3) non-governmental or academic organizations in North America established to promote the study of geographic names.

The primary principle or philosophy of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names is its recognition of present day local usage and preferences when considering and deciding on official names. To follow this principle, the Federal Board seeks close cooperation with State and local governments and their citizens. This is best and most easily accomplished in States that have recognized central geographic-name authorities to look after local interests. At present, 25 States have geographic-name authorities established by law or executive/departmental order, seven States have advisors recognized by the Board, but not necessarily by the State government, and 17 States do not have known names authorities or advisors. In the latter case, name problems are directed to the Governor, appropriate State agencies, and local governments.

Official geographic-names authorities in the United States vary in structure and membership. Some authorities are relatively large organizations with members representing various regions of the State, while others may be one-person operations. Many State geographic names boards or committees exist as autonomous bodies, while names authorities in other States are contained within State organizations that have broader functions, such as historical commissions, mapping advisory committees, or library boards. Sometimes

the authority is one of the functions of a specified office like the State geologist or archivist. Some committees meet regularly, for example on a monthly schedule, while others meet less frequently, or, in some cases all business is conducted by circulation of docket lists and correspondence between members. In some States, the committees also seek the cooperation or assistance of county or town boards or other groups who may be even closer to the specific problems.

The guiding principles of the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names are generally similar to those of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. There are differences in particulars and in emphasis. The Canadian Permanent Committee includes a representative appointed by each Province of Canada along with representation from seven Federal departments. (The U.S. Board does not include representation outside the Federal Government.) Although it is the responsibility of the Canadian Permanent Committee to deal with all questions of geographical nomenclature affecting Canada, name decisions are made by the respective Provinces and the names in the Territories, National Parks, and Indian Reserves are determined by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The names then become decisions of the Permanent Committee. In contrast, the U.S. Board is the principal authority for official names in the United States.

Mexico presently does not have a Federal geographic names authority in the same sense as its neighbors to the north. Official names for places and features in Mexico have been traditionally established by publication on the maps of the Direccion General de Geografia del Territorio National.

This listing of geographic names authorities and organizations reflects the most recent information available in the Branch of Geographic Names, Office of Geographic and Cartographic Research, National Mapping Division, U.S. Geological Survey. Since people, addresses, and organizations frequently change, some information may not be current. It is presently planned to update this publication on an annual basis. Please send corrections to:

Donald J. Orth  
Executive Secretary for  
Domestic Names  
U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
523 National Center  
Reston, Virginia 22092  
Tel: (703) 860-6256

Most entries in the listing are organized as follows:

1. Official title of authority or organization; the titles of State advisors are not all official.
2. Date when authority or organization was established and the source of its authority when applicable; the date when an advisor began working with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names is normally given.
3. Governmental organization or position responsible for the activities of the geographic names authority or organization if applicable.
4. Membership and officers of the organization or advisor.
5. Key person, mailing address, and telephone number.
6. Short history or background information of the geographic names authority or organization when appropriate.

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

- (1) United States Board on Geographic Names
- (2) Established 1947 by Public Law (Appendix A)
- (3) Department of the Interior
- (4) Membership: Departments of State, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Defense; Postal Service; Central Intelligence Agency; Library of Congress, and the Government Printing Office.
- (5) Richard R. Randall  
Executive Secretary  
U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
Defense Mapping Agency  
Building 56, U.S. Naval Observatory  
Washington, D.C. 20305  
Tel: (202) 254-4453

For domestic names matters:

Donald J. Orth  
Executive Secretary,  
Domestic Names  
U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
National Center, Mailstop 523  
Reston, Virginia 22092  
Tel: (703) 860-6256

- (6) The Board on Geographic Names was originally created in 1890 by Executive order and its authority and responsibilities were expanded and redefined in subsequent Executive orders. Its present authority is shared with the Secretary of the Interior. The Board meets quarterly to deal mainly with matters of administration and policy. Most work is accomplished by special committees involved with foreign, domestic, undersea, Antarctic, and extraterrestrial names. The secretariat for foreign names is furnished by the Defense Mapping Agency, and that for domestic names by the U.S. Geological Survey. The Board publishes

gazetteers, lists, and various other kinds of geographic-name information.

STATE AUTHORITIES

The following is a listing of State organizations and advisors that cooperate with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names in the national standardization program. Most of these authorities officially represent their respective State governments. Those not having official authority to represent a State have agreed to provide expertise and information about names in that State to assist the standardization program.

Alabama

- (1) Alabama State Liaison Officer for Geographic Names
- (2) Appointment by Governor
- (3) Geological Survey of Alabama
- (4) Liaison Officer
- (5) Alex Sartwell  
Geological Survey of Alabama  
P.O. Drawer 0  
University of Alabama  
University, Alabama 35486  
Tel: (205) 349-2852

Alaska

- (1) Alaska State Geographic Board
- (2) Established 1961 by State law (Appendix B)
- (3) Office of the Governor
- (4) Membership: Commissioner of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs; Director, Division of Libraries & State Museums, State Historical Librarian; Commissioner, Dept. of Natural Resources; Commissioner, Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities; Commissioner, Dept. of Education; Director, Division of Lands, Dept. of Natural Resources; and a person appointed by the Governor.

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--UNITED STATES

- (5) Mark Lewis, Chairman  
Alaska State Geographic Board  
Commissioner, Dept. of Community  
Regional Affairs  
Pouch B  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
Tel: (907) 465-4700
- (6) Before Alaska became a State in 1959, an official Advisory Committee on Names in Alaska was established in the Governor's office by order of the Secretary of the Interior in 1948.

Arizona

- (1) Arizona State Geographic Names Board
- (2) Established by Executive Order No. 82-11 in 1982 (Appendix C)
- (3) Arizona State Land Department
- (4) Membership: Department of Transportation; State Land Department; State Department of Economic Security; State Department of Libraries, Archives, and Public Records; Arizona Historical society; Arizona Association of Counties; State Office of Economic Planning and Development; a member representing the Arizona University System (rotating basis); and a member-at-large appointed by the Governor.
- (5) Paul A. Tessar, Chairman  
Arizona State Geographic Names Board  
Information Resources Division  
Arizona State Land Department  
1624 West Adams  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Tel: (602) 255-8576:  
(Richard Pinkerton)
- (6) An initial but unsuccessful effort to establish a State names authority was made in 1968 by the Arizona Highway Department.

California

- (1) California State Advisory Committee on Geographic Names

- (2) Established 1963 by The Resources Agency of California
- (3) The Resources Agency
- (4) Membership consists of a representative from each of the Departments of Conservation, Forestry, Fish and Game, Parks and Recreation, Water Resources, and the State Lands Commission.
- (5) F. D. Uzes, Chairman  
California State Advisory Committee on Geographic Names  
State Lands Commission  
1807 13th Street  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Tel: (916) 322-3589
- (6) The California State Advisory Committee has published several editions of its "Geographic Names Handbook" (Appendix D). The Eighth Western States Conference on Geographic Names will be sponsored by the California State Advisory Committee on Geographic Names in Bijou, California, October 4-5, 1984.

Colorado

- (1) Colorado State Geographic Names Authority
- (2) Executive Orders B0013-79 and B0005-79, October 24, 1979
- (3) Division of Local Government, Department of Local Affairs
- (4) Authority for geographic names in Colorado was vested with the Colorado State Cartographer who was assisted by representatives from the Departments of Agriculture, Highways, Local Affairs, National Resources, Regulatory Agencies and the State Forest Service, State Historical Society, and regional, county, and municipal organizations, and the academic community.
- (6) In 1914 a Colorado State Geographic board was established by the Governor. During the next 11 years it was responsible for standardizing and establishing

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--UNITED STATES

names for a large number of the State's mountains, lakes, and streams. The Board seems to have become inactive after 1926. The Colorado State Geographic Names Authority sponsored the Sixth Western States Conference on Geographic Names in Denver, Colorado, October 14-15, 1982. Due to a recent administrative change, the Colorado State Geographic Names Authority will be transferred to another State agency or position.

- (2) Established 1978
- (3) Office of the Surveyor General
- (4) Agreement was made by the Office of the Surveyor General to act as liaison between the U.S. Board on Geographic Names and the State of Georgia.
- (5) Marion R. Hemperly  
Surveyor-General Department  
Archives and Records Building  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Tel: (404) 656-2367

Hawaii

- Connecticut
- (1) Connecticut State Geographic Names Authority
  - (2) Established in part by 1933 State law updated.
  - (3) Secretary of State and the Department of Environmental Protection
  - (4) Not applicable
  - (5) Hugo F. Thomas  
Director/State Geologist  
Natural Resources Center  
Department of Environmental Protection  
165 Capitol Ave.  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
Tel: (203) 566-3540
  - (6) The State law directs the Secretary of State to maintain the official file of the names of hydrographic features in the State. The State Natural Resources Center is presently responsible for determining names for the hydrographic file and other names used on State maps. The Center maintains liaison with the Department of Transportation and the State Mapping Committee. Consideration is now being given to the possibility of legalizing this procedure.

- (1) Hawaii State Board on Geographic Names
- (2) Established May 25, 1974 by State law (Appendix E)
- (3) Department of Land and Natural Resources
- (4) Membership: Chairman, Board of Land and Natural Resources; Chairman, Hawaiian Homes Commission; Director, Department of Planning and Economic Development; President, University of Hawaii; State Land Surveyor; Director, Bernice P. Bishop Museum.
- (5) Lee S. Motteler, Chairman  
Hawaii State Board on Geographic Names  
P.O. Box 19000-A  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
Tel. (808) 548-3017

Direct correspondence to:

Gordon Soh, Secretary  
Hawaii State Board on Geographic Names  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809  
Tel: (808) 548-6461

- (6) The Hawaii State Board on Geographic Names publishes an annual report on its work. Before Hawaii became a State in 1959, an official Advisory Committee on Hawaiian Geographic Names was established by the Secretary of the Interior in 1911 and reactivated in 1956.

Georgia

- (1) "Georgia State Geographic Names Advisor"

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--UNITED STATES

Idaho

- (1) Idaho State Geographic Names Board
- (2) Established April 2, 1982 by State law.
- (3) Idaho State Historical Society
- (4) Membership: Board of Trustees, Idaho State Historical Society
- (5) Merle Wells, State Archivist  
Idaho State Historical Society  
610 North Julia Davis Drive  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
Tel: (208) 554-3356
- (6) The Idaho State Geographic Names Board was originally established by Executive order dated January 28, 1972 with the same organization it presently has by State law. The Idaho Board sponsored the Seventh Western States Conference on Geographic Names in Boise, Idaho, October 6-7, 1983.

Illinois

- (1) Illinois Geographic Names Advisor
- (2) Established 1983
- (3) Waubonsee Community College
- (4) Informal agreement to assist with name problems and to provide information on Geographic Names in Illinois.
- (5) Laurence E. Seits  
Waubonsee Community College  
Sugar Grove, Illinois 60554  
Tel: (312) 466-4811
- (6) Waubonsee Community College is the center for name studies in the State. The annual North Central Names Institute is held here and it is the home of the Illinois Name Society.

Indiana

The Indiana State Board on Geographic Names, established in 1961 is presently inactive.

Kansas

State officers are considering the possibility of establishing a State geographic-names authority.

Louisiana

- (1) Louisiana Geographic Names Advisor
- (2) Established 1976
- (3) Nicholls State University
- (4) Informal agreement to assist with name problems and provide information on geographic names in Louisiana.
- (5) Randall A. Detro  
Professor of Geography  
Nicholls State University  
Thibodaux, Louisiana 70310  
Tel: (504) 446-8111, ext. 401

Maine

- (1) Maine State Geographic Names Authority
- (2) Established 1964 by Executive order
- (3) A function of the Maine Mapping Advisory Committee Maine Geological Survey, Department of Conservation
- (4) Membership: State Geologist and other members of the Mapping Advisory Committee
- (5) Robert D. Tucker  
Executive Secretary  
Maine Mapping Advisory Committee  
Maine Geological Survey,  
Department of Conservation  
State House Station 22  
Augusta, Maine 04333  
Tel: (207) 289-2801

Michigan

- (1) Michigan State Committee on Geographic Names
- (2) Established 1927 by Executive order
- (3) Geological Survey Division, Department of Natural Resources
- (4) Membership not formally established but problems and requests are circulated to key State departments and agencies for comment. The Committee works closely with County administrations.

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--UNITED STATES

- (5) Michigan State Committee on Geographic Names  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Stevens T. Mason Building  
Lansing, Michigan 48926
- (6) The 1927 Michigan State Committee on Geographic Names was established by the Governor to eliminate the duplication of the names of lakes and streams. The original Committee included the Secretary of the Michigan Historical Commission, State Geologist, and members from the Departments of Conservations and Agriculture. The Committee functioned for several years as a unit, but gradually, as the workload decreased, the major work and responsibility was assumed by the Michigan State Geological Survey. Activity is presently reduced because of State budgetary problems.

Minnesota

- (1) Minnesota Geographic Names Authority  
(2) Established 1971 by State law  
(3) Department of Natural Resources  
(4) Authority is with the Commissioner of the Department, delegated to the Director, Division of Waters  
(5) Larry Seymour  
Director  
Division of Waters, Soils and Minerals  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Box 32  
Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155  
Tel: (612) 296-4805; Glen Yakel
- (6) The Minnesota State Geographic Board was established in 1937 by State law; abolished in 1971 by the "Minnesota Reorganization Act" and powers transferred to

the Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources. Records of the State Board are held by the Minnesota Historical Society. State laws regulating feature names go back to 1925.

Montana

- (1) Montana State Geographic Names Advisor  
(2) Established 1929 by designation of the Governor  
(3) Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
(4) Not applicable  
(5) Gordon C. Taylor, Chief  
Cartography Bureau  
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
32 S. E Wing, Capitol Station  
Helena, Montana 59620  
Tel: (406) 449-3647

Nebraska

- (1) Nebraska State Geographic Names Advisor  
(2) Established 1967  
(3) Nebraska State Historical Society  
(4) Informal agreement to assist with name problems and to provide information on Geographic Names in Nebraska.  
(5) Marvin F. Kivett  
Director  
Nebraska State Historical Society  
Box 82554  
1500 R Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska 58501  
Tel: (402) 471-3270

Nevada

- (1) Nevada State Geographic Names Advisor  
(2) Established 1967  
(3) Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (1967-1982)  
Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology (1982 - Present)

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--UNITED STATES

- (4) Not applicable
- (5) John Schilling  
State Geologist and Director  
Nevada Bureau of Mines and  
Geology  
Attn: Eugene S. Faust  
University of Nevada Reno  
Reno, Nevada 89557-0088  
Tel: (702) 784-6691
- (6) A meeting of State officials held  
May 10, 1982 at the University of  
Nevada agreed upon establishing  
the Nevada State Geographic Names  
Board. Efforts are now being  
made to accomplish this either by  
Executive order or by State law.

New Hampshire

- (1) New Hampshire State Geographic  
Names Advisor
- (2) Established in 1976
- (3) Office of State Planning
- (4) The Office of State Planning  
provides formal State review of  
name cases submitted to it by the  
Board on Geographic Names. This  
is accomplished through the Coun-  
cil on Resources and Development.
- (5) James F. McLaughlin  
Senior Planner  
New Hampshire Office of State  
Planning  
2 1/2 Beacon Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
Tel: (603) 271-2155

New Jersey

New Jersey does not have a State  
geographic names authority at  
present. A New Jersey Geographic  
Board was established in 1950  
with the New Jersey State Topo-  
graphic Engineer as Chairmen and  
with membership representing the  
State Highway Department and the  
East Jersey Board of Proprietors.  
The State authority became inac-  
tive after 1956 because the Fed-  
eral Board processed very few  
domestic name cases in the State  
during that time.

New Mexico

- (1) New Mexico State Geographic Names  
Authority
- (2) Informally established 1982
- (3) New Mexico Department of Natural  
Resources
- (4) New Mexico Mapping Advisory  
Committee
- (5) Bill Isaacs  
Acting Director  
Soils and Water Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
Villagra Building  
State Capitol  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503  
Tel: (505) 827-7867
- (6) In 1965 the New Mexico Mapping  
Advisory Committee and the State  
Planning Office considered estab-  
lishing a "State Geographic Names  
Commission," but no action was  
taken. The Cultural Properties  
Review Committee had the author-  
ity by State law to deal with  
"historic place names," i.e. the  
names of historic places. In  
1982, the Mapping Advisory Com-  
mittee began developing plans to  
place the State names authority  
under its purview.

New York

- (1) New York State Committee on  
Geographic Names
- (2) Established 1947 by State law
- (3) The University of the State of  
New York
- (4) Membership: State Historian;  
State Archaeologist; Chief,  
Bureau of Publications; Associate  
Commissioners of Education, State  
Museum, and State Library; and a  
citizen at large.
- (5) Edmund J. Winslow  
Executive Secretary  
New York State Committee on  
Geographic Names  
New York State Museum  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12230  
Tel: (518) 474-5375

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--UNITED STATES

- (6) The original New York State Board of Geographic Names was established about 1925 in The University of the State of New York.

Ohio

- (1) Ohio Geographic-Names Advisor  
(2) Advisory established about 1950  
(3) Geography Department, Kent State University  
(4) Informal agreement to assist with name problems and to provide information on geographic names in Ohio.  
(5) H. F. Raup  
Department of Geography  
Kent State University  
Kent, Ohio 44240

Oklahoma

- (1) Oklahoma State Board on Geographic Names  
(2) Established 1965 by State law  
(3) Oklahoma Geological Survey  
(4) Key State individuals including the Department of Geography at Central State University.  
(5) William D. Rose  
Oklahoma State Board on Geographic Names  
c/o Geologist/Editor  
Oklahoma Geological Survey  
The University of Oklahoma  
830 Van Vleet Oval, Room 163  
Norman, Oklahoma 73019  
Tel: (405) 325-3031

Oregon

- (1) Oregon Geographic Names Board  
(2) Established 1907 by Executive order  
(3) Oregon Historical Society  
(4) Membership is extensive and includes State officials, historians, place-name experts, geographers, and news-media people.

- (5) Thomas Vaughan, Secretary  
Millard McClung, Assistant Secretary  
Oregon Geographic Names Board  
Oregon Historical Society  
1230 S.W. Park Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97205  
Tel: (503) 222-1741

- (6) The Oregon Geographic Board, established 1907 by Executive order, was somewhat dormant until reactivated by the Governor in 1914. It continued almost as a one-person operation until 1949; briefly inactive until it was reactivated by the Governor in 1959 and made the responsibility of the Oregon Historical Society.

Pennsylvania

- (1) Pennsylvania Geographic Names Authority  
(2) Names authority established 1971 by State law  
(3) Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
(4) Membership is the Commission appointed by the Governor.  
(5) Dr. Larry E. Tise  
Executive director  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives Building  
Box 1026  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120  
Tel: (717) 783-9871 or 787-3034, Attn: George Beyer  
(6) The Pennsylvania Geographic Board was established before 1925 in the State Topographic and Geological Survey, Department of Internal Affairs. The Geographic Board was abolished at the end of 1970 and its functions transferred to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission beginning in 1971.

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--UNITED STATES

Rhode Island

- (1) Rhode Island State Geographic Names Advisor
- (2) Established 1982
- (3) Department of Administration
- (4) Informal agreement to assist with name problems and to provide information on the geographic names of Rhode Island.
- (5) Daniel W. Varin  
Chief, Statewide Planning Program  
Department of Administration  
265 Melrose Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02907
- (6) On October 15, 1926 a State Geographic Board of Rhode Island was created by Governor A. J. Pothier. The Board was organized February 1, 1927 with the following membership: State Librarian; Secretary of the Rhode Island Boundary Commission; Chairman, State Board of Public Roads; and a member from the State Historical Society. The State Geographic Board compiled a catalog of over 5,000 names in cooperation with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. The "Official Gazetteer of Rhode Island" was published in 1932 and listed about 2,000 of the names collected. The Gazetteer was to have been the first of a series of State gazetteers. After publication of the gazetteer activity of the Board declined and eventually ceased.

South Carolina

- (1) South Carolina Geographic Names Advisor
- (2) Established in 1982
- (3) South Carolina Department of Archives and History
- (4) Agreement to assist in developing historical background and determination of current usage.

- (5) Charles E. Lee  
Director  
South Carolina Department of  
Archives and History  
P.O. Box 11, 669  
Capitol Station  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211  
Tel: (803) 758-5816

Texas

- (1) Texas State Geographic Names Authority
- (2) Established 1973 by State law
- (3) Texas General Land Office
- (4) A coordinator appointed by the Land Office Commissioner conducts investigations and obtains recommendations from key State agencies, local governments, and citizens.
- (5) Michael H. McKann  
Geographic Names Coordinator  
Texas General Land Office  
1700 North Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Tel: (512) 475-1539
- (6) In 1957 the geographic-names authority was established with the Texas Historical Survey Committee by State law. This authority was transferred to the Texas General Land Office when a "permanent historical commission" was created by State law in 1973.

Utah

- (1) Utah State Committee on Geographic Names
- (2) Established 1976 by Executive order (Appendix F)
- (3) Division of State History
- (4) Membership consists of eleven members appointed by the Chairman, Board of State History, with concurrence of the Governor.

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--UNITED STATES

(5) Jay M. Haymond  
Executive Secretary  
Utah State Committee on  
Geographic Names  
Division of State History  
Department of Community and  
Economic Development  
300 Rio Grande  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101  
Tel: (801) 533-5808

(6) The Utah State Committee has printed a 25-page Geographic Names Handbook (Appendix G). The Utah State Committee initiated and hosted the First, Second, and Fourth Western States Conferences on Geographic Names.

Vermont

(1) Vermont State Geographic Names Authority

(2) Established 1961 by State law  
(3) Department of Libraries  
(4) State Librarian is delegated authority for determining official names and the State Board of Libraries is authorized to name unnamed places.

(5) Patricia E. Klinck  
State Librarian  
Department of Libraries  
111 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05620  
Tel: (802) 832-3265

Virginia

(1) Virginia State Geographic Names Advisors

(2) Authority given to the State Archivist in 1964 by recommendation of Governor and with the Department of Highways and Transportation in 1979.

(3) Virginia State Library and Department of Highways and Transportation.

(4) State Archivist is delegated the responsibility to investigate name problems. The Highway Department, Office of Drafting and Mapping, assists with the investigation of State and local usage.

(5) Louis H. Manarin  
State Archivist  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
Virginia State Library  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Tel: (804) 936-2306 and  
A. M. Shelton  
Department of Highways and  
Transportation  
1221 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Tel: (804) 786-2949

Washington

(1) Washington State Board on Geographic Names

(2) Reestablished 1983 by State law  
(3) Department of Natural Resources  
(4) Membership: Commissioner of Public Lands (Chairman); State Librarian; Chairperson, Washington State Heritage Council; and four members of the general public appointed by the Commissioner of Public Lands.

(5) Robert L. Edwards  
Executive Secretary  
Washington State Board on  
Geographic Names

Department of Natural Resources  
Olympia, Washington 98504  
Tel: (206) 753-1308

(6) A Washington State Board on Geographic Names was established in 1963 under the sponsorship of the Department of Conservation (Appendix H). After several attempts, the Washington State Board on Geographic Names was established by State law in July 1973.

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--UNITED STATES

Because of the State's "sunset law", the Board lost its official status in June 1982. Its members continued the work of the "board" in an advisory capacity until official status was regained in July 1983.

Wisconsin

- (1) State of Wisconsin Geographic Names Council
- (2) Established 1931 by State law
- (3) Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- (4) Membership: State Chief Engineer; State Geologist; State Cartographer; member from Division of Highways, member from University of Wisconsin; Department of Natural Resources Representative serves as Executive Secretary.
- (5) Dale E. Marsh, Secretary  
Wisconsin State Geographic Names Council  
Department of Natural Resources  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707  
Tel: (608) 266-0720  
or 266-2621

- (6) The Wisconsin State Geographic Board was established in 1931 by State law. In 1967, its duties were transferred to the State Natural Resources Board which assigned duties and functions to the Department of Natural Resources (Appendix I), but retained the original Board in the capacity of advisory council to the Department.

Wyoming

- (1) Wyoming State Geographic Names Authority
- (2) Established November 10, 1982 by Executive order
- (3) Wyoming State Engineers Office
- (4) Not applicable
- (5) George L. Christopoulos  
Wyoming State Engineer  
Barrett Building  
Attn: Nancy McCann  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002  
Tel: (307) 777-6172
- (6) Prior to the 1982 Executive order, the State Engineers Office (since 1965), the State Geologist, State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Governor performed advisory service for Wyoming geographic names.

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--INTERSTATE ORGANIZATIONS

INTERSTATE ORGANIZATIONS

- (1) Western States Geographic Names Council
- (2) Established October 15, 1982 (Appendix J)
- (3) Interstate authority
- (4) Membership: one voting member from recognized State geographic names authorities or coordinators from each of the following States: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming; the Chairman and Executive Secretary of the Domestic Names Committee, U.S. Board on Geographic Names and the National Director of the Place-Name Survey of the United States are also voting members. The Council also has advisors representing Mexico and Canada and key agencies of the United States Government. Officers of the Council are Chairman and Executive Secretary. The Chairman of the Council is the official whose State is hosting the Conference.
- (5) Jay M. Haymond  
Executive Secretary  
Western States Geographic Names Council  
Utah State Historical Society  
300 Rio Grande Street  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101  
Tel: (801) 533-5808
- (6) The Council was established to provide a dependable planning mechanism for the annual conference, to carry out certain work directed by the Conference, and to provide a central office for the purpose of communication.
- (1) Western States Geographic Names Conference
- (2) Established 1977
- (3) Interstate organization
- (4) Membership involves registration and attendance at each annual Conference; Western States Geographic Names Council members,

- of the Council's Federal Advisory Group and International Advisors, and interested persons. The Chairman of each Conference is the official from the State names authority or State coordinator (advisor) hosting the Conference that year. The Executive Secretary of the Western States Geographic Names Council is Secretary of the Conference.
- (5) Merle W. Wells, Chairman  
1983 Western States Geographic Names Conference  
Idaho State Historical Society  
610 North Julia Davis Drive  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
Tel: (208) 384-2120
  - (6) The First and Second conferences were sponsored by the Utah State Committee on Geographic Names and held in Salt Lake City November 17, 1977 and November 3, 1978. The title of these two events were First and Second Conference on Intermountain Geographic Names. In 1979, the concept was expanded to include all States in the western part of the United States. The Third "Western States Conference on Geographic Names" sponsored by the Utah State Committee and hosted by the U.S. Geological Survey was held in Menlo Park, California October 25-26, 1979. The Fourth Conference was again held in Salt Lake City on November 6-7, 1980; the Fifth at Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood on October 22-23, 1981 sponsored by the Oregon State Geographic Board; the Sixth in Denver, Colorado on October 14-15, 1982 sponsored jointly by the Colorado State Geographic Names Authority and the U.S. Geological Survey; and the Seventh was held October 6-7, 1983 in Boise sponsored by the Idaho State Geographic Names Board. The Domestic Names Committee of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names held its monthly meetings in conjunction with the Third through the Seventh Conferences.

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--OTHER

- (1) The National Geographic Names Data Base
- (2) Begun 1964
- (3) U.S. Geological Survey
- (4) Not applicable
- (5) Roger Payne  
Manager/GNIS  
U.S. Geological Survey  
National Center 523  
Reston, Virginia 22092  
Tel: (703) 860-6261
- (6) The Data Base is a computer-based Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) designed to:

- assist in establishing uniform name usage throughout the Federal Government in cooperation with State and local governments and the public,
- provide an up-to-date index of names found on Federal, State, and private maps,
- eliminate duplication and the need to spend large amounts of money and time by government agencies, industry, and

institutions to organize similar basic data files for specific needs,

- provide for standardization of data elements and their coded representations for use in information interchange within the information processing community, and meet Federal public information requirements prescribed by law. Information at varying levels of completeness is available for all States and Territories in the form of computer printouts, alphabetical lists, microfiche and magnetic tape. The National Gazetteer of the United States of America, to be published state-by-state, is a product of the Data Base. The New Jersey Gazetteer was the first volume published, to be followed by Delaware, Kansas, and Indiana Gazetteers later in 1983.

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--CANADA

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES

- (1) Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names
- (2) Established 1961 by Federal law (Appendix K)
- (3) Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
- (4) Membership: Assistant Deputy Minister, Energy, Mines and Resources (Chairman); Director General, Surveys and Mapping; Director of Cartography, Dept. of National Defence; Dominion Hydrographer; Dominion Archivist; Superintendent, Bureau of Translations, and a representative for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; Representative from each Province; a representative for Parks Canada; and the chairpersons of each of the advisory committees (if not already a member of the Committee).
- (5) Alan Rayburn  
Executive Secretary  
Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names  
615 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E9  
Tel: (613) 992-3405
- (6) The Geographic Board of Canada was created in 1897 by Order in Council; the present authority and title was adopted in 1961, and was amended in 1969. The present "full" Committee meets once a year at various places in Canada to deal mainly with matters of policy and issues of common interest. The Secretariat is provided by the Surveys and Mapping Branch in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources which carries out most of the Committee's work in cooperation with the Provinces and special advisory committees on undersea feature names, research, and glacial and alpine nomenclature and names outside Canada. On behalf of the Committee, the Surveys and Mapping Branch publishes gazetteers and other special toponymic publications.

Alberta

- (1) Alberta Geographic Names Authority
- (2) Established 1976 by Provincial law
- (3) Historic Sites Board
- (4) The Geographic Names Committee of the Board has four public members.
- (5) Frits Pannekoek, Director  
Historic Sites Service  
882D-112 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta TGG 2P8  
Tel: (403) 427-2022
- (6) The Geographic Board of Alberta was established in 1947. In 1976 its functions were transferred to the Historic Sites Board.

Newfoundland

- (1) Newfoundland Geographical Names Board
- (2) Established 1974 by Provincial law
- (3) Department of Forestry and Agriculture
- (4) The Board has 5 members, all of whom are either public servants or former public servants.
- (5) Cecil Godfrey, Secretary  
Geographical Names Board  
Department of Forest Resources and Lands  
P.O. Box 4750  
St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 5T7  
Tel: (709) 737-3251
- (6) The Nomenclature Board of Newfoundland was established in 1938. It was superseded by the present board in 1974.

Ontario

- (1) Ontario Geographic Names Board
- (2) Established 1968 by Act of the Legislative Assembly.
- (3) Ministry of Natural Resources

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--CANADA

- (4) Membership: Key Provincial people including the Surveyor General, Provincial Archivist, a linguist, and a "native" person.
- (5) Michael B. Smart  
Executive Secretary  
Ontario Geographic Names Board  
Surveys and Mapping Branch  
Whitney Block, Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3  
Tel: (416) 965-6515
- (6) The Ontario Board has published "Principles of Geographic Naming" (Appendix L) and "Naming Ontario"

Manitoba

- (1) Manitoba Geographic Names Authority
- (2) No provincial act
- (3) Department of Renewable Resources and Transportation Services
- (4) Director of Surveys
- (5) D. W. Crandall  
Director of Surveys  
1007 Century Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H 0W4  
Tel: (204) 633-9543 - local 111

Québec

- (1) Commission de Toponymie du Québec
- (2) Established 1977 by Provincial law
- (3) Office de la Langue Française
- (4) Three public servants, and four members of the public with specialization in geography, history, terminology and urban affairs.
- (5) Jean-Claude Fortin, Secretary  
Commission de toponymie  
220 Grande Allée Est,  
Québec, Québec G1R 2J1  
Tel: (418) 643-8660
- (6) The Geographic Board of Quebec was established in 1912. It is the predecessor of the present Commission.

New Brunswick

- (1) New Brunswick Geographic Names Authority
- (2) No provincial act, but one being considered.
- (3) Historical Resources Administration
- (4) Historic Sites Supervisor
- (5) David Mykes  
Historical Resources Administration  
P.O. Box 6000  
Fredericton, New Brunswick  
E3B 5H1  
Tel: (506) 453-2324

Nova Scotia

- (1) Nova Scotia Geographic Names Authority
- (2) No provincial act
- (3) Department of Lands and Forests
- (4) Director of Surveys
- (5) Keith AuCoin  
Director of Surveys  
Department of Lands and Forests  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 2T9  
Tel: (902) 424-5020

Saskatchewan

- (1) Saskatchewan Geographic Names Board
- (2) 1974
- (3) Department of Tourism and Renewable Resources
- (4) Three public servants and four members from the public, including representatives from the native communities, veterans, and historical societies.
- (5) John Turnbull, Chairman  
David S. Arthur, Secretary  
Geographic Names Board  
1855 Victoria Avenue  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3Z5  
Tel: (306) 565-4900

Northwest Territories,  
Yukon Territory, National Parks

- (1) Territorial and National Parks Names Authorities
- (2) No territorial acts
- (3) Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--CANADA

- (4) CPGN Representative for Indian and Northern Affairs
- (5) C. Lyle Hammond  
CPGN Representative for Indian and Northern Affairs  
9th floor  
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0H4  
Tel: (819) 997-0202

- (1) National Parks Names Authority
- (2) No Federal act
- (3) Department of the Environment
- (4) Historian
- (5) Maxwell Sutherland  
Chief, Historical Research  
Parks Canada, Rm. 301, 3rd floor  
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A1G2  
Tel: (819) 994-1739

Prince Edward Island

- (1) Prince Edward Island Geographic Names Authority

- (2) No provincial act
- (3) Executive Council
- (4) Secretary of the Cabinet
- (5) Douglas B. Boylan  
Secretary of the Cabinet  
Executive Council  
Box 2000  
Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 7N8  
Tel: (902) 892-4296

British Columbia

- (1) British Columbia Geographic Names Authority
- (2) No provincial act
- (3) Ministry of Environment
- (4) Surveys and Resource Mapping Branch
- (5) Donald F. Pearson  
Provincial member of the CPGN  
Surveys and Resource Mapping Branch  
Ministry of Environment  
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X5  
Tel: (604) 387-3176

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--MEXICO

GOVERNMENT of MEXICO

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| (1) <u>Registro de Información Geografica</u>  | (6) The official names of places and features in Mexico have traditionally been established through use on the official maps of Mexico published by the Direccion General de Geografía de Territorio Nacional (previously known as the Comision de Estudios del Territorio Nacional: CETENAL). |
| (2) Established 1982   |  |
| (3) Direccion General de Geografía del Territorio Nacional (DEGETENAL)   |  |
| (4) Not applicable   |  |
| (5) Ing. Francisco Hansen Albites<br>Departamento de Registro de Información Geográfica<br>Direccion General de Geografía del Territorio Nacional<br>San Antonio Abad 125, Tercer piso<br>Mexico, D.F. 06820 |  |

OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES--INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

- (1) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
- (2) Established as an Ad Hoc body April 27, 1959, put on a permanent basis May 3, 1968.
- (3) Economic and Social Council, United Nations
- (4) Membership: based on official representatives of nations belonging to the United Nations within established linguistic/geographic divisions. Officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Rapporteur, and Executive Secretary.
- (5) Senior Economic Affairs Officer  
Department of Technical Cooperation for Development  
Infrastructure Branch  
United Nations  
Room DC-1-724  
Box 20  
New York, New York 10017  
Tel: (212) 754-8569
- (6) The Group of Experts meets about once every two years upon the decision of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Work is accomplished by Working Groups dealing with a variety of programs and problems associated with the national and international standardization of geographic names. Some items currently being considered include:
- a. national standardization
  - b. automated data processing
  - c. training
  - d. gazetteers
  - e. terminology
  - f. exonyms
  - g. naming features beyond a single sovereignty
  - h. writing systems
  - i. international cooperation
- Reporting and voting is based on the linguistic or geographic divisions.
- (1) United Nations International Conference on Geographical Names
- (2) Established July 16, 1965
- (3) Economic and Social Council, United Nations
- (4) Membership: Credentials of governmental officials representing member nations of the United Nations to the Conference. Officers of the Conference are President, Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, and Rapporteur.
- (5) Maximilien C. de Henseler  
Chief, Cartography Section  
Natural Resources & Energy Division  
Department of Technical Cooperation for Development  
United Nations Box 20  
New York, New York 10017  
Tel: (212) 754-8569
- (6) Conferences are held once every five years upon the decision of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The work of the Conference is accomplished by working technical committees. Current committees are involved with:
- a. national standardization
  - b. gazetteers
  - c. country names
  - d. writing systems
  - e. international cooperation

The working committees are supported by editorial groups responsible for writing reports and resolutions so that the work of committees and members can be received and adopted or rejected at primary sessions; one vote for each nation. The proceedings and documents of each Conference are published by the United Nations. Four Conferences have been held: Geneva, Switzerland (September 4-22 1967) London, England (May 10-31, 1972) Athens, Greece (August 17-September 7, 1977) Geneva, Switzerland (August 24-September 14, 1982).

ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS--UNITED STATES

- (1) Place-Name Survey of the United States  
 (2) Established December 29, 1969 in Denver, Colorado  
 (3) American Name Society  
 (4) Officers include a National Director, Commission, and State Directors.  
 (5) Fred A. Tarpley  
 National Director  
 Place-Name Survey of the United States  
 Department of English  
 East Texas State University  
 Commerce, Texas 75428  
 Tel: (214) 886-5251
- (6) The Place-Name Survey was established to promote a systematic survey of geographic-name information throughout the United States. Most work is being done by scholars located with academic institutions in each State. The first National Director was Byrd Granger at the University of Arizona. Annual meetings are normally held in conjunction with those of the American Name Society. Special meetings of the Executive Committee were held in Washington, D.C. in 1972 and Reston, Virginia in 1975.
- (1) American Name Society  
 (2) Established 1951 in Detroit, Michigan. Incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois, 1952.  
 (3) Independent organization  
 (4) Officers: President; First, Second, Third Vice-Presidents; Executive Secretary, Treasurer, Editor. The Society also has a Board of Managers, an Editorial Board, and Associate, Book Review, and Monograph Editors.  
 (5) Murray Heller  
 Executive Secretary  
 American Name Society  
 North Country Community College  
 20 Winona Avenue  
 Saranac Lake, New York 12983  
 Tel: (518) 891-2915
- (6) The Society was founded to promote the study of the etymology, origin, meaning, and application of all categories of names - geographic, personal, scientific literary, commercial, popular - and to disseminate the results of such study. It publishes a quarterly magazine Names and distributes a bulletin several times a year. Its annual Report on Work in Progress on Place Names is a very important document. The Society has an annual meeting at which papers are read and supports various regional institutes.
- (1) Names Institute  
 (2) Established 1962  
 (3) Fairleigh Dickenson University, Madison, New Jersey and the American Name Society.  
 (4) Not applicable  
 (5) E. Wallace McMullen  
 Director  
 Names Institute  
 15 Rosewood Drive  
 Madison, New Jersey 07940  
 Tel: (201) 377-4557
- (6) The institute occasionally publishes significant papers read at its annual meeting.
- (1) South Central Names Institute  
 (2) Established 1972  
 (3) East Texas State University  
 (4) Not applicable  
 (5) Fred A. Tarpley  
 Director  
 South Central Names Institute  
 East Texas State University  
 Commerce, Texas 75428  
 Tel: (214) 886-5251
- (6) The Institute annually publishes most of the papers read at each meeting.
- (1) Conference on Literary Onomastics  
 (2) Established 1973  
 (3) State University of New York College at Brockport  
 (4) Not applicable

ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS--UNITED STATES

- (5) Grace Alvarez-Altman  
 Director  
 Conference on Literary Onomastics  
 State University College  
 Brockport, New York 14420  
 Tel: (716) 637-3560
- (6) The Conference deals mainly with all names used in literature including geographic names. Most papers are published in an annual document.
- (1) Onomastic Symposium  
 (2) Established 1973  
 (3) Eastern Connecticut State College  
 (4) Not applicable  
 (5) Dean Reilein  
 Director  
 Onomastic Symposium  
 Mansfield Center, Connecticut 06250  
 Tel: (203) 423-1753
- (6) The Symposium publishes many of the papers read at its annual meetings.
- (1) North Central Names Institute  
 (2) Established 1980  
 (3) Wanbonsee Community College  
 (4) Not applicable  
 (5) Laurence E. Seits  
 Director  
 North Central Names Institute  
 Wanbonsee Community College  
 Sugar Grove, Illinois 60554  
 Tel: (312) 466-4811
- (6) The Institute publishes most of the papers read at its annual meeting.
- (1) Utah Place-Name Society  
 (2) Established 1982  
 (3) Independent  
 (4) Board of Directors: President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Editor, Historian, and two appointed members.  
 (5) John Van Cott  
 President  
 Utah Place Name Society  
 Room 289 Widtsoe Building  
 Brigham Young University  
 Provo, Utah 84602  
 Tel: (801) 225-5367
- (6) Established to encourage the study of Utah place names.
- (1) Illinois Name Society  
 (2) Established 1982  
 (3) Wanbonsee Community College  
 (4) Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer.  
 (5) Laurence E. Seits  
 Illinois Name Society  
 Wanbonsee Community College  
 Sugar Grove, Illinois 60554  
 Tel: (312) 466-4811
- (6) The Society was established to encourage the collection and study of names in Illinois, to sponsor the North Central Names Institute, to publish papers presented at the Institute, and to publish a bulletin several times a year.

ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS--CANADA

CANADA

- (1) Canadian Society for the Study of Names
- (2) Established 1967
- (3) Independent Organization
- (4) Officers: President, Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Managing Editor.
- (5) Helen Kerfoot  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Canadian Society of the Study of Names  
P.O. Box 6626  
Station J  
Ottawa, K2A 3Y7  
Tel: (613) 992-3892

- (6) The Society was founded to promote the study of names in Canada and to provide a central focus for scholars working with names. Its annual meeting, normally held as a part of the Canadian Congress of Learned Societies, includes the reading of papers and a day-long onomastic tour of the area in which the meeting is held. The Society publishes Onomastic Canadiana and a newsletter titled The Name Gleaner.

ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS--INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

- (1) International Committee of Onomastic Sciences
- (2) Established at the Third International Congress of Toponymy and Anthroponomy, Brussels, Belgium in 1949.
- (3) Independent. The Secretary-General and staff support is provided by the International Centre of Onomastics, Leuven, Belgium.
- (4) Delegates to the Committee are national scholars in the field of onomastics.
- (5) Professor Doctor Henri Draye  
Secretary-General of the  
International Committee of  
Onomastic Sciences  
Blijde-Inkomststraat 5  
B-3000 Leuven, Belgium
- (6) The Committee was established as a formal body of scholars to promote scientific onomastic studies and to provide a means of communication between scholars. The publication Onoma, begun in 1950, is the bibliographical and information bulletin of the Committee. The International Congress of Onomastic Sciences is held every three years in a host country. More recent Congresses were held in Bern (1975), Krakow (1978), and Ann Arbor (1981). The 1984 Congress will be held in Leipzig.



**APPENDIXES A-L**

[PUBLIC LAW 242—80TH CONGRESS]

[CHAPTER 330—1ST SESSION]

[S. 1262]

AN ACT

To provide a central authority for standardizing geographic names for the purpose of eliminating duplication in standardizing such names among the Federal departments, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Interior, hereinafter called the Secretary, conjointly with the Board on Geographic Names, as hereinafter provided, shall provide for uniformity in geographic nomenclature and orthography throughout the Federal Government. The Secretary may exercise his functions through such officials as he may designate, except that such authority as relates to the final approval or review of actions of the Board on Geographic Names shall be exercised by him, or his Under or Assistant Secretaries.

SEC. 2. There is hereby established a Board on Geographic Names, hereinafter called the Board. The membership of the Board shall include one representative from each of the Departments of State, War, Navy, Post Office, Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce, and from the Government Printing Office, and the Library of Congress. The Board may also include representatives from such Federal agencies as the Secretary, upon recommendation of the Board, shall from time to time find desirable, even though these agencies are in the departments otherwise represented on the Board. The members of the Board shall be appointed by the respective heads of the departments or independent agencies that they represent. Each member shall be appointed for a two-year term but may be reappointed to successive terms. The members of the Board shall serve without additional compensation. The Board shall nominate a Chairman to be appointed by the Secretary, and shall establish such working committees as are found desirable.

SEC. 3. The Board, subject to the approval of the Secretary, shall formulate principles, policies, and procedures to be followed with reference to both domestic and foreign geographic names; and shall decide the standard names and their orthography for official use. The principles, policies, and procedures formulated hereunder shall be designed to serve the interests of the Federal Government and the general public to enlist the effective cooperation of the Federal departments and agencies most concerned, and to give full consideration to the specific interests of particular Federal and State agencies. Action may be taken by the Secretary in any matter wherein the Board does not act within a reasonable time. The Board may make such recommendations to the Secretary as it finds appropriate in connection with this Act.

SEC. 4. The Secretary shall cause such studies and investigations to be made and such records to be kept as may be necessary or desirable in carrying out the purposes of this Act, and he shall provide a place of meeting and staff assistance to the Board. The staff shall be responsible to the Secretary, who shall prescribe its relations to the Board and the committees of the Board. The Secretary may establish from time to time, upon recommendation of the Board, advisory committees of United States citizens who are recognized experts in their respective fields to assist in the solution of special problems arising under this Act.

SEC. 5. For the guidance of the Federal Government, the Secretary shall promulgate in the name of the Board, from time to time and in such form as will carry out the purposes of this Act, decisions with respect to geographic names and principles of geographic nomenclature and orthography. The Secretary shall also furnish such additional information with respect to geographic names as will assist in carrying out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 6. With respect to geographic names the pertinent decisions and principles issued by the Secretary shall be standard for all material published by the Federal Government. The United States Board on Geographical Names in the Department of the Interior created by Executive order, is hereby abolished, and the duties of said Board are transferred to the Board herein created, and all departments, bureaus, and agencies of the Federal Government shall refer all geographic names and problems to the said Board for the purpose of eliminating duplication of work, personnel, and authority.

SEC. 7. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as applying to the naming of the offices or establishments of any Federal agency.

SEC. 8. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

Approved July 25, 1947.

## LAWS OF ALASKA

### Article 4. State Geographic Board.

<p><b>Section</b>  <b>51. State Geographic Board</b>  <b>56. Composition</b>  <b>58. Duties of board</b></p>	<p><b>Section</b>  <b>60. Use of names chosen</b>  <b>62. Advertising or publishing a name without approval</b></p>
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**Sec. 44.19.054. State Geographic Board.** There is in the Office of the Governor a State Geographic Board. (§ 1 ch 119 SLA 1961)

*Editor's note.* — This section derives from AS 44.19.350 and was renumbered by the revisor under 01.05.031.

**Sec. 44.19.056. Composition.** The State Geographic Board consists of the director of the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, the curator of the state museum, the state historical librarian, the commissioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, the commissioner of the Department of Education, the director of the division of lands, and one other person appointed by the governor. (§ 1 ch 119 SLA 1961; am § 11 ch 49 SLA 1963; am § 9 ch 200 SLA 1972; am Executive Order No. 39, § 11 (1977))

*Effect of amendment.* — Pursuant to Executive Order No. 39 (1977), a reference to the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has been substituted for a reference to the Department of Highways.

*Editor's note.* — This section derives from AS 44.19.360 and was renumbered by the revisor under 01.05.031.

**Sec. 44.19.058. Duties of board.** The State Geographic Board has the following powers and duties:

- (1) to determine the correct and most appropriate names of the lakes, streams, places and other geographic features in the state and their spelling;
- (2) to pass upon and give names to lakes, streams, places, and other geographic features in the state for which no single generally acceptable name has been in use;
- (3) to cooperate with local subdivisions of government and, with their approval, change the names of lakes, streams, places and other geographic features to eliminate duplication of names in the state;
- (4) to prepare and publish an official state dictionary of geographic names and to publish it for sale, either as a complete whole or in parts when ready; and
- (5) to serve as the state representatives of the United States Geographic Board and cooperate with that board so that there is no conflict between the state and federal designations of geographic features in the state. (§ 2 ch 119 SLA 1961)

*Editor's note.* — This section derives from AS 44.19.370 and was renumbered by the revisor under 01.05.031.

**Sec. 44.19.060. Use of names chosen.** When the State Geographic Board gives a name to a lake, stream, place or other geographic feature in the state, the name is the official name of the geographic feature and shall be used in all maps, records, documents, and other publications issued by the state or its departments and political subdivisions. (§ 3 ch 119 SLA 1961)

*Editor's note.* — This section derives from AS 44.19.380 and was renumbered by the revisor under 01.05.031.

The provisions formerly contained in AS 44.19.060 are now contained in AS 44.19.028.

**Sec. 44.19.062. Advertising or publishing a name without approval.** No person may attempt to modify local usage or name an unnamed geographic feature in an advertisement or publication without first obtaining the approval of the State Geographic Board. If a person violates this section, the geographic board shall promptly announce its disapproval and shall adopt an official name for the feature. (§ 4 ch 119 SLA 1961)

*Editor's note.* — This section derives from AS 44.19.390 and was renumbered by the revisor under 01.05.031.



# LAWS OF ALASKA

B

1982

Source

Chapter No.

CSSB 727(SA)

140

## AN ACT

Relating to the duties of the State Geographic Board; and providing for an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

Approved by the Governor: June 28, 1982  
Actual Effective Date: June 29, 1982

Chapter 140

## AN ACT

Relating to the duties of the State Geographic Board; and providing for an effective date.

\* Section 1. AS 44.19 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 44.19.059. ALASKA NATIVE PLACE NAMES. In carrying out its duties to name geographic features under AS 44.19.058(2) the State Geographic Board shall consider using Alaska Native place names for geographic features in the state that have not previously been named, using Native language writing systems accepted by the Alaska Native Language Center of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks.

\* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-070(c).

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## EXECUTIVE ORDER

No. 82-11

### STATE GEOGRAPHIC NAMES BOARD

*WHEREAS, the history and culture of Arizona is reflected in its geographic names; and*

*WHEREAS, there is a need for official rulings which will represent the considered opinion of the State of Arizona regarding the proper names of geographic features and places for use in official documents, standard maps and for use in general; and*

*WHEREAS, liaison between the State of Arizona and the United States Board on Geographic Names is needed to eliminate confusion and to promote accord and agreement on geographic name designation and origin;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bruce Babbitt, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arizona by the Arizona Constitution and the Laws of Arizona, it is ordered as follows:*

- I. *The establishment of the State Geographic Names Board*
  - A. *There shall be a State Geographic Names Board which shall consist of one member representing each of the following agencies or organizations:*
    - 1) *Arizona Department of Transportation,*
    - 2) *Arizona State Land Department,*
    - 3) *Arizona State Department of Economic Security,*
    - 4) *Arizona State Department of Libraries, Archives, and Public Records,*
    - 5) *Arizona Historical Society,*
    - 6) *Arizona Association of Counties,*
    - 7) *Arizona State Office of Economic Planning and Development,*
    - 8) *One member representing the Arizona University System, rotating on a biennial basis, and*
    - 9) *One member-at-large appointed by the Governor.*
  - B. *Members of the State Geographic Names Board shall serve without compensation or expense to the State of Arizona, except that expenditures may be made from federal funds received by the State and allocated to the Board for normal expenses and its members if such expenditures are in accordance with the law.*
- II. *Duties of the Board*

*The Board shall:*

  - A. *Determine the correct and most appropriate name of mountains, canyons, gulches, streams, streambeds or channels (whether dry or flowing), mesas, deserts, waterholes, bridges (either natural or manmade), parks, monuments (either natural or manmade), roads, trails or other natural or artificial geographic features in the State and their spellings; but specifically reserving to the counties, cities and towns the right to change street and road names.*
  - B. *Pass upon and give names to geographic features in the State for which no generally accepted name is or has been in use.*
  - C. *Cooperate with local subdivisions of government and with their approval when such names are not of historical significance, change the names of geographic features to eliminate duplication of names in the State.*
  - D. *Review and pass upon all proposed changes in names from those which may be of historical significance.*

- E. *Prepare, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, an official State gazetteer of geographic names.*
- F. *Adopt bylaws, rules and procedures for the orderly conduct of operations.*
- G. *Represent the State in all appropriate actions before the United States Board on Geographic Names and cooperate with that board so that there is no conflict between State and federal designations of geographic features in the State.*

**III. Use of Names Chosen**

*When the State Geographic Names Board gives a name to a geographic feature in the State, the name is the official name of the geographic feature and shall be used in all maps, records, documents and other publications issued by the State or its departments and political subdivisions.*

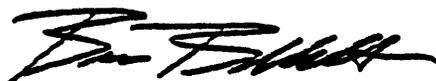
**IV. Advertising or Publishing a Name Without Approval**

*No person may attempt to modify local usage or name an unnamed geographic feature in an advertisement or publication without first obtaining the approval of the State Geographic Names Board.*

**V. Perpetuation of Historical Names**

*It is declared the public policy of the State that natural or artificial objects, places or things continue to be known by the names they now bear, as shall be determined by the State Geographic Names Board, so that the historical record of the State may be protected and preserved.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona*

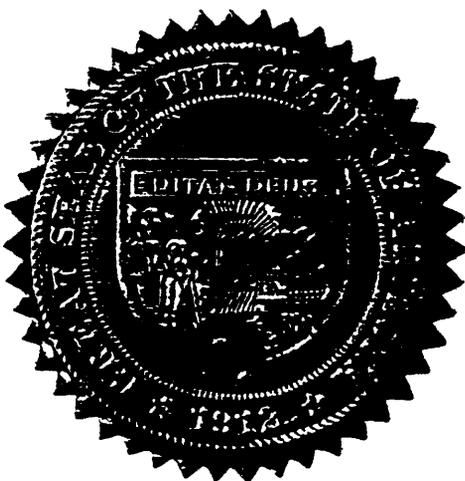


GOVERNOR

*DONE at the Capital in Phoenix on this ninth day of November in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-two and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Sixth.*

ATTEST:

*Rose Mofford*  
Secretary of State





STATE OF CALIFORNIA

The Resources Agency

Advisory Committee On Geographic Names

# GEOGRAPHIC NAMES HANDBOOK

Policy      Guidelines      Procedures

FEBRUARY 1969

RONALD REAGAN  
Governor  
State of California

NORMAN B. LIVERMORE, JR.  
Secretary for Resources  
The Resources Agency

## GEOGRAPHIC NAMES HANDBOOK

This handbook is prepared primarily for the guidance of state agencies; however, its use by local agencies and the private sector is encouraged.

Names have a serious significance to any map user. Erroneous names are apparent to even the most inexperienced map users. Personal place names are often a source of pride to a family or a community, and the misspelling, misapplication or omission of a name may cause resentment that will impair the character of an otherwise excellent map and damage the reputation of the agency responsible. In a broader sense, the strength, consistency, and appropriateness of names are marks of the vigor, growth, and permanence of a nation and a society. Much can be done to retain historic heritage, color, and picturesqueness through judicious selection of new names.

To those depending on a map in performance of duty, an erroneous name can be irritating, confusing, and costly. Incorrect names may cause serious mistakes in such activities as fire control, rescue, and recreational use; also, in many cases, legal confusion and litigation can result from name changes. In view of the importance of accurate map names, it is essential that all state personnel diligently endeavor to submit complete and correct name information before proposing a name to be applied to a natural feature.

In this handbook the term "geographic name" is concerned with that portion of toponymy relating primarily to physical features and, secondarily, to populated places. It must be recognized, however, that the differences between generic terms applied to features and places (e.g., hill, stream, gully) which are the proper subject of this handbook, and those generic terms applied to the cultural works of man (e.g., canal, road, airport, aqueduct) is sometimes indistinct due to the fact that, when in being, a tendency exists for the one to assume the identifying properties of the other.

Cases exist where the name of a road has geographic significance. Canals are cultural features, but specific circumstances may favor their identification as geographic features and, consequently, a name applied to capitalize upon their geographic characteristics. Sometimes a place name will have application almost entirely to a cultural feature, such as a town, village, church, school, store, or depot. However, the principal generics encountered will be rivers, creeks, streams, lakes, ponds, mountains, ridges, peaks, and other items of ready definition and acceptance as geographic terms.

The name of a lake or reservoir impounded by a dam is properly a responsibility of those working with geographic names, while the name of the dam is commonly the responsibility of the sponsor or builder. The importance of geographic names has been accentuated by the addition of a Section 161.5 to the California Water Code, which reads as follows:

"The California Water Commission shall have the power to name all facilities of the State Water Resources Development System owned by the state. The commission may receive testimony from the public on matters involving its responsibilities under this section, and after public hearing for the purpose of considering all proposed

names for such facilities, may, by resolution, express its decision regarding the naming of specific facilities of the State Water Resources Development System."

The widespread interest in geographic names is indicative of their importance. The Domestic Geographic Names Committee of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names<sup>1/</sup> reviews and correlates the data at the federal level. The Board has final authority with respect to the choice of names to appear on all federal maps, since it is obviously advantageous that names be kept as uniform as possible. To aid in accomplishing this desirable end by providing liaison with the Board, the Secretary for Resources has established an Advisory Committee on Geographic Names.<sup>2/</sup> In addition to providing an official liaison with the Board, the ACGN coordinates name selection procedures within the Resources Agency, extends its coordinating facilities for use by other state agencies, and can and does provide assistance to local governments and the general public.

The seven members of the ACGN represent the Department of Conservation, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Harbors and Watercraft, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Lands Division, and Department of Water Resources, whose various divisions constitute the major land-owning, land-managing, and map making agencies in State Government. Representatives from the U. S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and U. S. Geological Survey attend by invitation all meetings of the ACGN and serve for all practical purposes as very welcome ex-officio members of ACGN. Other state and federal agencies are encouraged to have representation at meetings of the ACGN as appropriate. The ACGN has adopted the Department of Fish and Game's regional division of the State for administrative purposes, with a member responsible for activity in one assigned district.

The Board has welcomed the advice of the ACGN and refers the California portion of all Dockets<sup>3/</sup> to the members of the ACGN for review and recommendation prior to action. Naturally, historical societies, county and city officials, local historians and interested individuals contribute and appraise name data according to their interest. This advice is sought and encouraged by the ACGN. All state agencies involved in naming geographic features are urged to participate in this program and to seek approval and confirmation of suggested names by the Board through the ACGN. Personnel within the Resources Agency proposing names to be used in conjunction with state activities or projects should submit proposals to the ACGN in accordance with this handbook.

The following renumbered sections of this handbook have been adapted from the United States Forest Service Geographic Names Handbook. The generosity of the Forest Service in permitting this adaptation is gratefully acknowledged.

<sup>1/</sup>Hereinafter known as the Board.

<sup>2/</sup>Hereinafter known as the ACGN. See Exhibit 1 for agency order establishing the ACGN. And see Exhibit 1A for agency order continuing ACGN.

<sup>3/</sup>Dockets are tabulations, together with pertinent information, of proposed geographic names, prepared by the Domestic Names Committee for its monthly meetings.

1.00 - U. S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES. Broadly speaking, the purpose of the Board is to standardize the names of geographic features on maps and in other official publications of the Federal Government. On September 4, 1890, the Board was established by Executive Order. In 1934 the Board was assigned to the Department of the Interior. In 1947 Public Law 242 provided the Board with central authority for standardizing geographic names among federal departments and for other purposes.

The Board, conjointly with the Secretary of the Interior, formulates Federal Government principles, policies, and procedures related to both domestic and foreign geographic names and determines the choice, spelling, and application of these names for official use.

2.00 - DOMESTIC GEOGRAPHIC NAMES COMMITTEE. The Domestic Geographic Names Committee<sup>1</sup> of the Board is composed of representatives from the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Interior, and Post Office and the Government Printing Office. It deals with all name proposals and name problems in the fifty states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States.

The Committee handles questions of conflict, proper application of geographic names, and new name proposals. The Executive Secretary of the Committee is in the Map Information Office of the Geological Survey. See Exhibit 4 for more information on the Domestic Geographic Names Committee.

Name case data and recommendations are submitted to the Executive Secretary. In the office of the Executive Secretary of the Committee, reference records are maintained, and investigations are conducted and correlated with all interested government and other agencies and individuals. Following the assembly and evaluation of the facts on a case, a definition is prepared for the name and the main facts justifying the recommendation are furnished in a numbered Docket to members of the Committee. Generally, the numbered Docket is furnished to the members at each monthly meeting for consideration at the next meeting in about 30 days. If the review of a name by an interested agency is not complete in this period, it is customary to ask for a reasonable deferment. The Committee endeavors to clear up the older Dockets promptly and give early action to each recommendation. To accomplish this, agency requests for deferments should be held to a minimum and to the shortest possible time.

Minutes of each Committee meeting are distributed to members, and notice of action taken is furnished to others as required. Promulgation of the approved names then becomes the responsibility of the interested government agencies. Compiled lists of approved names are distributed periodically in "Decision Lists" issued by the Board.

3.00 - APPROVED NAMES. Names approved by the Board for use on federal maps should be promptly and uniformly used by all state agencies.

4.00 - PRINCIPLES OF GEOGRAPHIC NAMES. The responsibility that is involved in a name proposal originating in the state agencies should be recognized. In every case, this demands a familiarity with ACGN and Board

<sup>1</sup>/Hereinafter known as the Committee.

functions. Proposals for new names should conform to the principles under 5.00 through 7.00 established by the Board and adopted by the Secretary for Resources. Names referred to the ACGN for concurrence should conform to these principles, except in cases of well-justified deviations.

5.00 - NAME SELECTION STANDARDS. In the proposal or consideration of names for geographic features, the following should be observed:<sup>1/</sup>

5.01 - Euphonious and historically suitable names, such as those of Indian or Spanish origin, should be retained with due regard to linguistic and historic consistency.

5.02 - Duplication of names for features near to each other should be avoided.

5.03 - Proposals to name features for living persons are not normally accepted by the Board. On rare occasions, the Board has accepted names of living persons for minor features when such names are of long established local usage.

5.04 - Long and clumsy names, and names composed of two or more words in addition to the generic, should be avoided.

5.05 - Renaming of features possessing names long in use and widely accepted is to be deplored (for example, the suggestion made in March, 1965, that Mt. Whitney be renamed to Mt. Churchill).

5.06 - Proposed changes to existing names in California may have confusing and serious legal ramifications because of county charter and private land descriptions. Where any feature forms or is adjacent to a political subdivision boundary, careful consideration and study should be made before recommending a change.

5.07 - Multiplication of names for different parts of the same feature is to be avoided.

5.08 - It is desirable that each major tributary of a stream should have a specific name. A distinctive name having a good chance of local acceptance is preferable over one containing the conjunctive term fork, branch, or prong.

5.09 - Spelling and pronunciation sanctioned by local usage should be adopted. Usage of family names is frequently an exception to this guide.

5.10 - Where spelling and pronunciation have been changed by local usage, it is frequently inadvisable to attempt another change.

<sup>1/</sup>The Government Printing Office Style Manual contains general guidelines for abbreviating, capitalizing, and compounding; a list of preferred spellings; and other useful information.

5.11 - Where the same name was originally applied to more than one feature in an area, and the spelling and pronunciation have since been changed to produce two well-established names, no attempt should be made to change either name.

5.12 - When two names are both sanctioned by local usage, the more appropriate and euphonious should be recommended.

5.13 - The possessive form should be avoided whenever in so doing the euphony or descriptive application of the name is not changed.

5.14 - The spelling center when part of a name should always be used in preference to centre.

5.15 - The use of hyphenated names should be avoided.

5.16 - The Board does not approve any abbreviated forms of geographic names, except in those rare cases where such an abbreviation is part of a legally incorporated name. Use of abbreviated forms on maps or publications is, however, a matter of editorial judgment.

5.17 - The words city and town should normally be avoided in place names, except where well established through usage.

6.00 - COMMEMORATIVE NAME STANDARDS. It is of significance that the relative importance of a feature should be weighed against the importance of other features of the region. Thus, it is inappropriate to propose naming a major peak for John Doe or a small pond for Winston Churchill.

The outstanding beauty of a small mountain may bring it into a major category, while the presence of other prominent peaks in an area could have the effect of placing a lofty peak in a secondary category. Characteristics of these categories are detailed under 6.01 through 6.03.

6.01 - MAJOR FEATURES. A major feature may be a mountain range or a group; high, massive or spectacular mountain, summit, peak or ridge; large lake or river; major island or prominent cape.

1. Qualifications

- a. Only one major feature of a kind to a person.
- b. The person so honored should have enduring fame.
- c. Public service must be more than regional.
- d. Honorable fame, not notoriety.
- e. Importance of person commensurate with magnitude of features.

f. Qualifies by association in one of the following ways:

- (1) Exploration survey or scientific investigation.
- (2) Conservation of natural heritage.
- (3) Long association with the feature.
- (4) Outstanding service to the people of the area.

2. Evidence Required. Before approving names for major or secondary features, the Board must have evidence on file as follows:

- a. The name is that of a deceased person whose eligibility for the honor is established in accordance with the rules for naming major or secondary features. For major features the person shall be justly distinguished for services which unquestionably benefited the people and Nation.
- b. Biographical material proving good character and reputation.
- c. Statements showing that the proposed name is not distasteful to the local residents.

6.02 - SECONDARY FEATURES. A secondary feature may be a small mountain, ridge, small glacier, valley, medium to small island or medium-sized lake or river. The person shall have been associated with the feature as required by qualifications for a major feature (6.01).

The name of a deceased member of the Armed Forces or state servant will be considered for application to a feature on or near where he met death in the line of duty or engaged in heroic action. The name of a member of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty anywhere will be considered for application to an unnamed feature with which he was associated.

For qualifications and evidence required, see 6.01.

6.03 - MINOR FEATURES. A minor feature may be a hill, small water-course, pond or cove.

1. Qualifications. Qualifications will include one of the following:

- a. Long-time establishment of the name in local usage.
- b. Name of an early occupant or owner.
- c. Member of the Armed Forces or a state servant who died in the line of duty.

- d. A person closely associated with the feature.
- e. A person who died near the feature.

2. Evidence Required. Before approving commemorative names for minor features, the Board must have on file evidence as follows:

- a. The name is that of a deceased person whose eligibility for the honor is established in accordance with the rules for naming minor features.
- b. Statements showing that the local residents will accept the name.

7.00 - DEROGATORY NAMES. In reviewing geographic names, the Board is governed by the following criteria:

1. The disapproval of any new or proposed change to a name containing a derogatory term.

2. All such names currently appearing on federal maps will be reviewed by the publishing agencies, and as the maps are revised, the names will be referred to the Board for review and action.

7.01 - Derogatory terms shall not be used on any new state maps or publications as part of a geographic name. When such a term is encountered in local usage, it will not be incorporated in the map.

8.00 - NAMES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS AND RELATED SITES AND AREAS. Standards for naming administrative units and related sites and areas, including memorials and dedications, are important. Much can be done to preserve past history and heritage through judicious choice. Although not included in the geographic names category, it is essential that changes in the designations be incorporated into map revisions.

9.00 - NAME CASE INVESTIGATIONS. Investigations of names are conducted for the purpose of preparing a background to guide the eventual recommendation of the ACGN. The degree of investigation and manner of approach vary somewhat depending on which of the main classes of investigation are required. These are detailed under 9.01 through 11.05.

9.01 - DOCKET REFERRALS. Names are brought to the attention of the ACGN by way of copies of the California portion of the Dockets. Many names require internal confirmation only. If pertinent information from outside agencies or private individuals is needed, a deferment is usually requested of the Board to provide time to make the necessary contacts.

9.02 - PROPOSED NAMES. Investigations resulting in the confirmation or the compilation of alternative proposals for names submitted by other agencies include, but are not necessarily restricted to, the following:

- 1. Application of the name.

2. Extent of the feature.
3. Spelling and pronunciation of the name.
4. Verification of presented historical and other data.
5. Local plat and map usage.
6. Local signing practice.
7. Local text references.
8. Local acceptance in oral usage.
9. Confirming local findings by other agencies.
10. Degree of local advisory group participation.
11. Administrative history or preference.

9.03 - GUIDE LINES. Good judgment is required to determine the degree to which these points are covered. If the investigation confirms the name as referred, a report to the ACGN covering the general results should be sufficient. Upon approval by the ACGN, recommendations are forwarded to the Board. However, if findings are in any way contrary to name proposals, full information should be furnished. This is necessary to enable the ACGN to recommend properly to the Board.

A name showing current map usage, clear in application, simple in pronunciation, accepted by local people, and in agreement with acceptable requirements, may be reported back promptly to the ACGN without further delay.

10.00 - DIRECT EXTERNAL REQUESTS. Many new name proposals, name changes, or discrepancies are brought directly to the attention of the ACGN. These should be investigated with emphasis on determining the previous usage in the area, written text, and map reference. Questions such as the following may be significant.

1. What are the objectives of the proponent?
2. How will interested persons in the community accept the new name or a change?
3. Will any confusion to the State or other operations result?
4. Are there any legal ramifications?

In addition, the specified and pertinent areas of investigation listed under 9.02 should be covered. Statements should be documented where appropriate and supporting exhibits furnished for ACGN use.

11.00 - IN-SERVICE INVESTIGATION. State agency personnel, in the course of their administrative or technical duties, should note and report unnamed features, duplications, errors, unsuitable names, or inappropriate names. These should be brought to the attention of the ACGN for consideration and action.

11.01 - MAP EDITING. A state map manuscript may be in need of editorial completion, whereupon it may be submitted to the appropriate agencies for editing. All personnel should give careful consideration to possible name errors. State agency personnel, because of their close association with their areas and broad knowledge of the State, will have the best opportunity to discover errors. Any errors, omissions, or obsolete or unacceptable names that are found should be reported with pertinent details as soon as possible to the source. The ACGN is available to help resolve any name conflicts.

General name investigation for manuscript editing purposes will follow a somewhat different line in the acceptance and careful use of all names free of question. A few names will evolve into discrepancies and new names will be proposed. These will be studied and recommended as discussed under 11.02.

11.02 - INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES AND METHODS. The responsibilities and procedures to be followed for geographic name investigation are provided under 11.03 through 11.05.

11.03 - RESPONSIBILITY. Any level of government may initiate investigations in order to resolve name conflicts or fulfill the need for a new name. However, the committeeman in whose area the name occurs has primary responsibility for preparing the final recommendation to the ACGN. When a name change would appear on a map which overlaps a map of another agency, the latter should be informed of the change and its comments should be solicited. Recommendations from all agencies should be transmitted to the ACGN by the map producing agency.

Agency officers should consult with the ACGN before initiating names investigations that may entail extensive areas or that may deal with names of obscure interest. The Geological Survey (USGS) Topographic Division is currently mapping and remapping areas of the State on standard quadrangle sheets. Current programs are available from the Regional Office of the Geological Survey or from the State Department of Water Resources, Maps and Surveys Branch, which acts as state coordinator for this cooperative mapping program. Advance prints of USGS topographic maps in California are distributed to all interested state organizations for comment. All questions regarding names should be brought promptly to the attention of the ACGN in order to avoid a duplication of effort in names research.

11.04 - FIELD PROCEDURES. The first step in a name investigation by a field man is to assemble all available records that pertain to the feature. If the investigation is initiated at some other level or through some other agency, the information of record will be placed at his disposal. This does not relieve the field men from responsibility for searching for information from other sources. These sources include Forest Service maps, USGS maps, Coast and Geodetic Survey (C&GS) charts, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plats, state maps, private maps, old historic maps, and others.

1. Local Usage. After the record sources have been reviewed, the next step is to determine what name is in local usage for the feature. Ordinarily, the local usage will determine the name. This means that investigators must personally contact local individuals. Among usually reliable sources are the county assessor, county sheriff, city officials, and the postmaster. Other usually reliable sources are the landowners, foremen and employees of landowners residing near the feature, lumbermen or stockmen working in or near the feature, local historical societies or the local historian, and the oldtimers of the area. Often one contact will lead to another and more reliable information. Valuable record information may be available in the county deed records to assist in determining name history and proper spelling. Incidentally, the historic spelling for names that changed through the years can often be verified from dates on tombstones in family or local cemeteries.

Diplomacy must be used in questioning people about items to avoid giving the impression that they are answering to an exacting official inquiry, thereby causing them to hesitate or to become indecisive. Strive to make the inquiry follow the lines of an ordinary conversation between two people with a mutual point of interest. At the end of the conversation, however, ascertain the spelling of the geographic name as the individual knows it, and ask his name, address, and occupation. These facts should be written down at time of the interview.

In order to contact an individual effectively, the investigator should be fully acquainted with his record information. He should have a personal knowledge of the area adjacent to the feature in question. It will sometimes be difficult for the field man to determine if he and his informant are speaking of the same feature. A large-scale detailed map, a planimetric, or best of all, a topographic map, and an aerial photograph will be invaluable in order to establish the identity of the feature.

If the name applies to the higher of two nearby peaks of apparently equal elevation, the proper peak and name should be circled on the map and the photograph. If a stream being named extends beyond the edge of the map, the name should also be placed on the adjacent map and underscored, even though only a short segment of the stream occurs on the adjacent map.

2. Signs. The relationship between posted signs and map names is necessarily very close. Posted signs are important evidence of local usage. Any person engaged in name research depends heavily on a posted sign for name determination. If, however, a sign is contrary to indicated local usage, further checking is required as to the basis for the sign, the posting agency, length of time it has been in existence, previous signing, etc. Certainly nothing is more confusing to the map user than disagreement between a sign and the map, particularly if both are from the same agency.

3. Reporting. The investigator will furnish all the essential information on the appropriate form. He should realize that his

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information will be subjected to close scrutiny by numerous individuals and organizations while a decision is being reached. It is of particular importance that the origin or history of a name be given as completely as possible on the name report. If the name originates from an historical event, this should be explained. A descriptive name should be commented upon as to its suitability for the feature. If the name is derived from a language other than English, the history, meaning, and pronunciation must be set forth as clearly as possible. For new or proposed names, an explanation should give the reason for the choice. Local support, if any, from organizations or individuals should be stated. Disagreement should also be noted in the report.

Proposed new names for geographic features require strict evaluation before they are recommended. The name of a deceased person of prominent association with the feature may be used, but often this is a difficult determination to make and extensive investigation may be required. If the name of a person is being considered, a history of the individual and his relationship to the feature must be given. Definite date of his death must be stated. New names should be short, preferably one word, appropriate, and euphonious. The use of words such as big and little should be avoided whenever possible.

The generic part of a name should be appropriate for the feature or area. The use of creek for a watercourse might be undesirable in an area where a watercourse is frequently called a gulch. Local usage will be the most reliable guide in selecting the generic name. The suitability of the generic name should be commented upon in the same report to avoid any future question.

The field man will attach the best available map to the report form. This should be of sufficient scale to show the feature without doubt or confusion. The map will show, in colored pencil, the name lettered as the field man would like it to appear on the published map. The feature will also be colored or outlined to show extent of the application.

Specific questions on the report must be answered as fully as information permits.

12.00 - FORMS. The two standard forms of the Board for name changes or new proposals are Forms 9-1343A, DOMESTIC GEOGRAPHIC NAME PROPOSAL and 9-1344, PROPOSAL OF NAME FOR AN UNNAMED DOMESTIC FEATURE. These forms are illustrated as Exhibits 2 and 3 at the end of this handbook. They may be secured through a request to the ACGN Chairman, State Division of Mines and Geology, Ferry Building, San Francisco, California 94111, or from the U. S. Board on Geographic Names, Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. 20242. Docket investigations will be reported by memorandum. Such cases are too numerous and dissimilar to be reported on established forms.

13.00 - CASE PREPARATION REQUIRED. Cases requiring submission of a report to the Board are as follows:

1. Proposed names for previously unnamed features. The question is whether the feature has a name. In more remote areas a relatively small amount of local usage will, if consistent, amount to an established name. Generally, if the local usage is fragmentary and not recognized by the better informed members of the community and there is no map usage, the feature will be considered unnamed. If there is early map usage, but no current corresponding local usage, the name of the feature may be considered a variant.

2. New names for features that previously had some other name. A field cartographer, surveyor, planner, or other source may find that an earlier name has map usage or common local usage and may even have a Board decision, but circumstances have been such that a new name seems more acceptable. All the people in the community recognize the new name and it is used in newspapers, local directories, in giving directions, and in up-to-date compilation, such as, the better quality road maps.

3. Old names now obsolete in application. During the course of time, a name may have perfect appropriateness and usage, but due to altering circumstances, such as, more intensive cultural development, the use of the name with reference to the original feature becomes confusing and it is found that the approved and previously accepted usage should be altered.

For example, the original application may have been to an entire feature whereas present conditions and usage have reduced the application to only a portion of the feature.

4. Names in which spelling is at variance with existing decisions. A Board decision may spell a name in agreement with the original source, but its use locally may have completely lost this earlier form and significance. If the local usage is consistent and of long standing, the ACGN will prepare a recommendation for Board action.

5. Names of features too frequently repeated. Too many Mud Lakes, Clear Creeks, Red Mountains, etc., in an area can cause confusion. It is generally advantageous to reduce duplications when reasonably uniform concurrence and acceptance by local interests can be expected.

6. Names used incidentally in federal or state legislation which affect a geographical feature not in accordance with local usage, map usage, or a Board decision.

7. Names of places which are different from the railroad station or post office therein.

14.00 - CASE PREPARATION NOT REQUIRED. Below are listed the principal circumstances under which it is not necessary to submit a case for Board approval, provided such names do not in some related way fall in one of the preceding classifications requiring a decision.

1. Names for which there are existing affirmative decisions by the Board.
2. Names that have been established by enactment of Congress or the Legislature.
3. Names that have been formally approved by any state board or commission in conformity with the principles of the ACGN insofar as they apply to features wholly within the jurisdiction of the State and for use only in publications under the State's jurisdiction. This includes names established by the California Water Commission (see page 31).
4. Official names of post offices, insofar as they apply only to the names of post offices.
5. Names not geographic, usually ephemeral and generally applicable to man-built structures.
6. Names in generally accepted use for such features as dams, railroads, highways, bridges, lighthouses, ranger stations, and other similar structures that have been officially adopted.

15.00 - NAME REPORT PREPARATION. It will be the responsibility of the ACGN to determine if a name requires a decision by the Board. After receiving the report of the investigation from the member in whose area the name occurs, the ACGN will check all its records for further information. Current cases and those already approved will be carefully reviewed to avoid duplications. Simple errors brought about by misunderstandings, draftsmen's errors, etc., may be treated as map corrections and corrected within the state agencies, provided the error has not been perpetuated by a subsequent map.

16.00 - GEOGRAPHIC NAME INDEX. An up-to-date record of all recommendations to the Board is maintained by the ACGN.

17.00 - POSTING AND MAINTENANCE. It is mandatory that all revisions of state maps conform with the most recent decisions on geographic names.

18.00 - FURNISHING NAME INFORMATION. Agencies preparing maps which will receive public distribution and will require more detailed naming than previous maps have received should list all new names with history and justification and forward them to the ACGN. The ACGN will in turn examine the proposed new names in order to prepare a recommendation to the Domestic Geographic Names Committee.

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA  
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

AGENCY ORDER  
NO.

SUBJECT

Advisory Committee on Geographic Names

29

DATE

November 28, 1966

REFERENCE

  
ADMINISTRATOR

Recognizing that a need currently exists to provide advice to the United States Board on Geographic Names, I am now establishing within the Resources Agency an Advisory Committee on Geographic Names.

The Committee will be composed of the Directors of the below named departments or their designees:

- Department of Conservation
- Department of Fish and Game
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Department of Water Resources
- Department of Harbors and Watercraft

In addition, the State Geologist shall serve as chairman of this Committee.

The Committee shall serve as staff for the Administrator in developing suggested advice to the Domestic Names Committee of the United States Board on Geographic Names and other organizations or agencies having interest in or responsibilities for determining the geographic names to be used on maps published by federal agencies. The Committee shall consult with other state bodies outside the Resources Agency, and with local authorities at the county and city levels when preparing its recommendations to the Administrator.

The Committee shall also be responsible for reviewing from time to time the Geographic Names Handbook and recommending appropriate revisions thereto.

D

## Memorandum

To : DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS and  
BOARD EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Date : February 20, 1968

File No.:

Subject : Agency Directives

From : Office of the Administrator

Attached are Agency Directives Nos. 1-7\* which will be in effect as of February 21, 1968.

You will note that the proposed directives concerning the Geographic Names Committee and the Tahoe Committee were withdrawn. These committees are extremely important and will continue in existence. However, we are currently reviewing the status of the 72 inter and intra-agency committees for which we have records. Henceforth, committees will not be created by Agency Directive, but by a memorandum which sets forth the charge of the committee and, where appropriate, its date of expiration and reporting procedures.

The directive dealing with the aerial photographing service was withdrawn as we have many services within the Agency which need not be described by a directive.

Generally, we incorporated, where possible, changes you suggested in the drafts distributed January 8, 1968. The intent of these directives is merely to establish a means of communication of important policies and procedures within the Agency. They do not affect the statutory duties and responsibilities of any unit within the Agency. These directives may be amended or new ones issued at any time.

Your continued advice and suggestions are most welcome and appreciated.



N. B. Livermore, Jr.

Attachments

- \* The directive dealing with federal reports will be issued at a later date.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  <b>DOMESTIC GEOGRAPHIC NAME PROPOSAL</b>	Proposed name <hr/> State <hr/> County
---	--

Reason for Proposal: <i>Check appropriate box(es)</i>	Controversial name <input type="checkbox"/>	Name change <input type="checkbox"/>	Is name in local use? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	If Yes, approx. No. of years _____
	Changed application <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>		

Location of Feature	Latitude _____ ° _____ ' _____ " N.	Section(s) _____ T. _____ R.	Longitude _____ ° _____ ' _____ " W.	Meridian _____
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Brief description of feature:

MAPS USING PROPOSED NAME	VARIANT SPELLING OR OTHER NAME	MAP SHOWN ON

Available information as to origin, spelling, and meaning of the proposed name and/or statement concerning nature of difference in usage or application:

AUTHORITY FOR NAME	ADDRESS	OCCUPATION

Indicate number of people consulted other than above authorities: \_\_\_\_\_

## SUBMITTED BY:

Individual or private organization

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_Government agency (*State or Federal*) *Check appropriate box*Field officer of a mapping agency 

Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name and title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## INSTRUCTIONS

This form should be used to provide supporting information on Domestic geographic name proposals. Names should be reported when more than one name is given to a feature by local inhabitants, and/or on official maps, or in reports of Federal, State, and county agencies; also if there is disagreement as to the extent of the feature or the application of the name. A full statement covering the field investigation of each name is required in order that adequate evidence may be submitted in proper form to the Board on Geographic Names for decision on the following:

1. Names that have more than one local spelling.
2. Names where local spelling differs from that shown on previously published maps or reports.
3. Conflicting name usage due to change in property ownership.
4. Conflicting published names in sparsely settled areas where local usage cannot be determined.
5. New names, that is, recently assigned or proposed names for features previously unnamed. (*Use Board on Geographic Names form, Proposal of Name for an Unnamed Domestic Feature.*)

Established names in local use, even if previously unpublished, are not considered new names. If spelling, application, and extent of use are undisputed, a name may be accepted for publication without submitting it to the Board on Geographic Names for approval.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  <b>PROPOSAL OF NAME                  FOR AN UNNAMED DOMESTIC FEATURE</b>		Proposed name  <hr/> State _____ County _____  Pronunciation, if not obvious (use Webster's Dictionary symbols)
Location of Feature	Latitude    °    '    " N. _____ _____ _____	Longitude    °    '    " W. _____ _____ _____
Section(s) _____, T. _____, R. _____, _____ Meridian		
Description and extent of feature:		
Distance and direction from prominent features or towns:		
Basis of knowledge that the feature is unnamed:		
Reason for Choice of Name:  <input type="checkbox"/> descriptive <input type="checkbox"/> other (state reason): <input type="checkbox"/> for a nearby feature <input type="checkbox"/> for a person		
If the name is descriptive, state why it is appropriate:  If named for another feature, state for that other feature:		
1. Name _____ Lat. _____ °    '    " N. -- Long. _____ °    '    " W. Section(s) _____, T. _____, R. _____, _____ Meridian		
2. Any known variant spellings or other names:		
3. Number of years known by present name:		
4. Relation of the two features:		

If the name commemorates a person, state:

1. Full name of the person: \_\_\_\_\_  
(do not propose name of a living person)

2. Date of the person's death: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Last residence: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Association, if any, of the person with the feature to be named:

5. Brief biography:

List any  
Attached  
Identification  
Aids

Marked map:  
Marked photographs:  
Other:

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Individual or private organization

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Government agency (State or Federal)

*Check appropriate box*

Field officer of a mapping agency

Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and title \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Excerpts From Bylaws Of  
National Board On Geographic Names

Article III

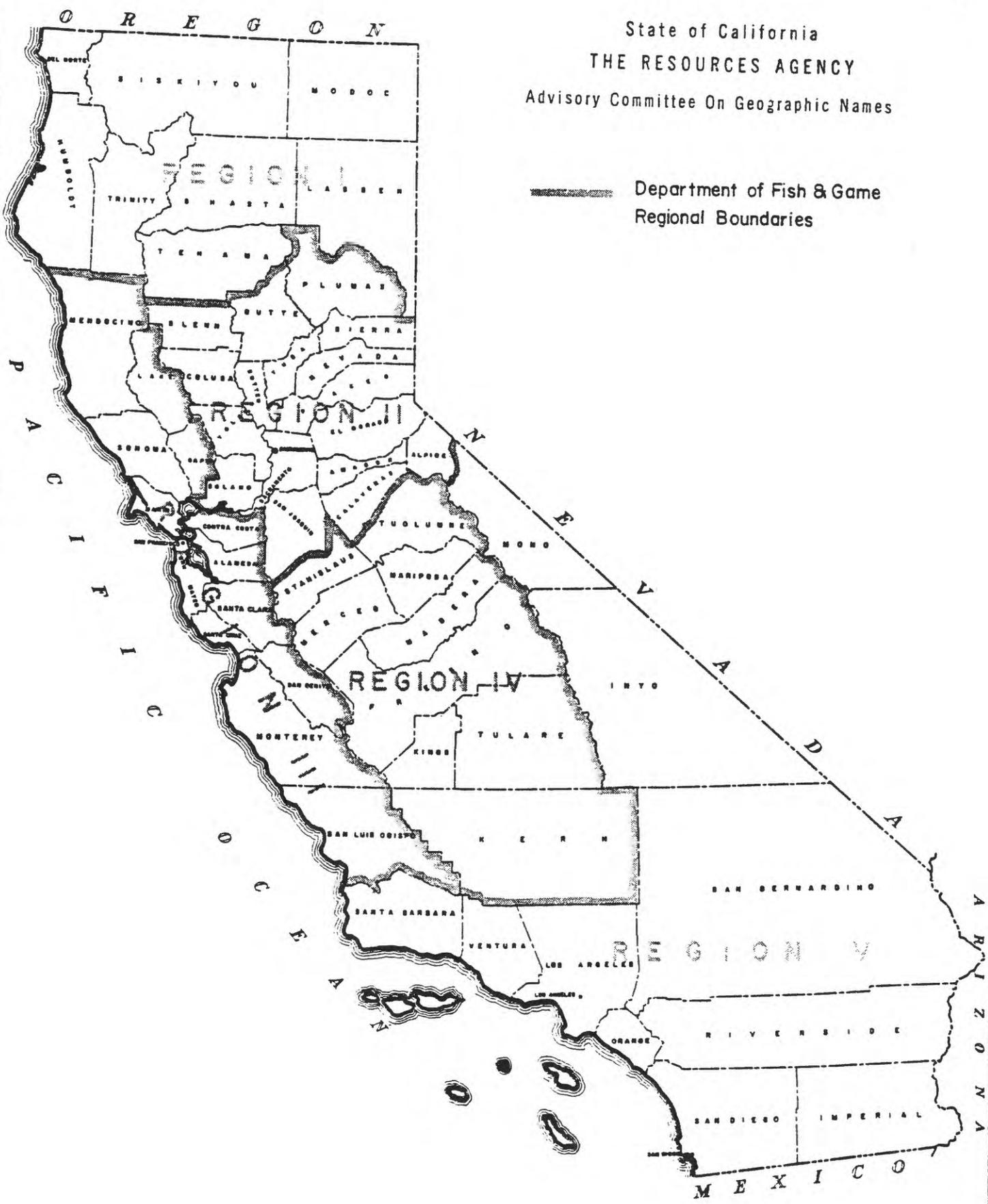
Sec. 7 - The Executive Secretary for Domestic Names will maintain all records of the Board including the correspondence files that pertain to domestic geographic names in the contiguous United States - Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. He will provide a meeting place for the Committee and advise the members as to the time and place of the meeting. He will prepare the minutes of the meetings of the Domestic Names Committee, and conduct related correspondence of the Board and the Committee in accordance with procedures formulated by the Board and approved by the Secretary. He will serve as technical consultant to the Board in matters pertaining to domestic names. He may participate, without vote, in all meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee and he or his representatives will be present at all meetings of the Domestic Names Committee at which name decisions are made.

Article IV

Sec. 4 - The Domestic Names Committee will operate in accordance with principles, policies, and procedures approved by the Board and the Secretary. The Domestic Names Committee will utilize staff services provided by the Geological Survey, and render decisions on individual geographic names and approve preferred sources clearly within established principles, policies, and procedures. All other committee action will be referred to the Board for approval. The Committee will perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board or the Executive Committee.

State of California  
 THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
 Advisory Committee On Geographic Names

Department of Fish & Game  
 Regional Boundaries



# Appendix E

H . B. NO. 2266-74

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1           SECTION 1. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to create  
2 a State Board on Geographic Names to assure uniformity in the  
3 use and spelling the the names of geographic features within the  
4 State.

5           SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
6 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read:

### "CHAPTER

#### STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

9           Sec. -1 State board on geographic names. There shall be  
10 in the department of land and natural resources a State board  
11 on geographic names, consisting of the following persons or their  
12 representatives: the chairman of the board of land and natural  
13 resources, the chairman of the Hawaiian homes commission, the  
14 director of the department of planning and economic development,  
15 the president of the University of Hawaii, the State land sur-  
16 veyor, and the director of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum. The

17

18

AG 297 287

A-7(74)

H. B. NO. 2266-74

1 members of the board shall serve without compensation.

2 The provisions of section 26-34 shall not be applicable  
3 to this board.

4 Sec. -2 Chairman, secretary. The representative from  
5 the department of land and natural resources shall serve as  
6 secretary of the board and as custodian of its official records.  
7 The board shall select one of its members as chairman of the  
8 board to serve for a term of four years or until his successor  
9 is selected.

10 Sec. -3 Responsibilities of the board. (a) The board shall  
11 designate the official names and spellings of geographic features  
12 in Hawaii and provide for circulation thereof to the appropriate  
13 State and other agencies. In its deliberations, the board shall  
14 solicit and consider the advice and recommendations of the appro-  
15 priate county government officials, and, should the board desire,  
16 other knowledgeable persons.

17 (b) The department of land and natural resources shall  
18 publish an annual list of its decisions, together with information  
19 regarding location, the origin and meaning of names, and alternate  
20 names and spellings for the features named, which list together  
21 with the pertinent information shall be sent to the board of  
22 geographic names of the United States.

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1 (c) The departments of the State shall use or cause to be  
 2 used on all maps and documents prepared by or for them the names  
 3 and spellings approved by the board on geographic names; provided,  
 4 that such names or spellings shall not be contrary to legally  
 5 established names or spellings."

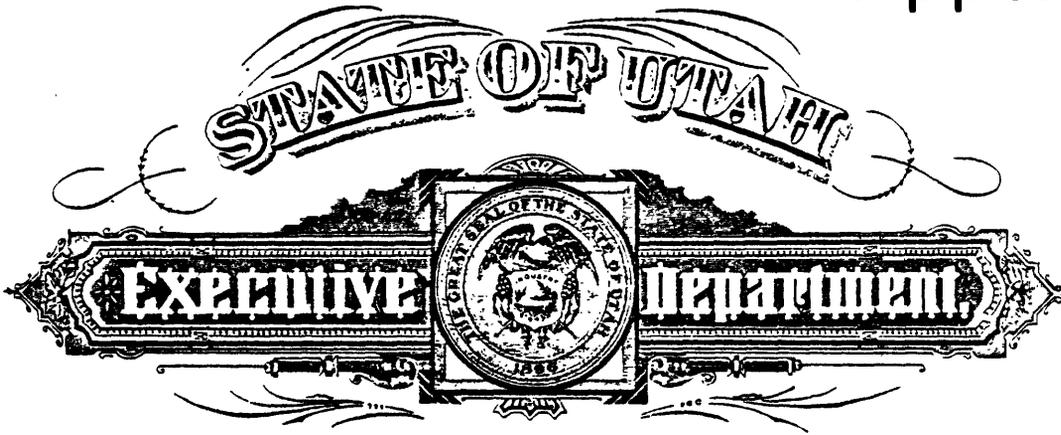
6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

7 INTRODUCED BY:

*James Bessie*  
*by request*

JAN 30 1974

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EXECUTIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, the history and culture of Utah is reflected in its geographic names; and

WHEREAS, the public has an interest in geographic names; and

WHEREAS, state and federal agencies have need for authoritative information on geographic names; and

WHEREAS, liaison between the State of Utah and the United States Board on Geographic Names is needed to eliminate confusion and to promote accord and agreement on geographic name designation and origins;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Calvin L. Rampton, Governor of the State of Utah, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State of Utah, do hereby order:

1. That a Utah State Committee on Geographic Names be established.
2. That the Director of the Division of State History shall be responsible for the proper function of the said committee.
3. That a committee of eleven members shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Board of State History with the concurrence of the Governor, and shall include at least one member of the Board of State History.
4. That said committee's primary functions are to act as liaison between the U.S. Board of Geographic Names and to review all geographic name changes or addition in Utah.
5. That any Utah state agency proposing geographic name changes of any kind shall submit such changes to the Utah State Committee on Geographic Names for prior review.
6. That it is recommended that federal agencies, private groups, and individuals proposing to change any geographic name in Utah, submit such proposed changes to the Utah State Committee on Geographic Names for prior review.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set  
my hand and caused to be affixed  
the Great Seal of the State of  
Utah. Done at the State Capitol  
in Salt Lake City, Utah, this  
25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1976.

*Calvin L. Rampton*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:  
*Shirley J. Williams*  
Secretary of State

**UTAH**  
**GEOGRAPHIC**  
**NAMES**  
**HANDBOOK**



UTAH STATE COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

1976 EDITION

## GEOGRAPHIC NAMES HANDBOOK

Names have a serious significance to any map user. Erroneous names are apparent to even the most inexperienced map users. Personal place names are often a source of pride to a family or a community, and the misspelling, misapplication or omission of a name may cause resentment that will impair the character of an otherwise excellent map and damage the reputation of the agency responsible. In a broader sense, the strength, consistency, and appropriateness of names are marks of the vigor, growth, and permanence of a nation and a society. Much can be done to retain historic heritage, color, and picturesqueness through judicious selection of new names.

To those depending on a map in performance of duty, an erroneous name can be irritating, confusing. Incorrect names may cause serious mistakes in such activities as fire control, rescue, and recreational use; also, in many cases, legal confusion and litigation can result from name changes. In view of the importance of accurate map names, it is essential that all state personnel diligently endeavor to submit complete and correct name information before proposing a name to be applied to a natural feature.

In this handbook the term "geographic name" is concerned with that portion of toponymy relating primarily to physical features and, secondarily, to populated places. It must be recognized, however, that the differences between generic terms applied to features and places (e. g., hill, stream, gully) which are the proper subject of this handbook, and those generic terms applied to the cultural works of man (e. g., canal, road, airport, aqueduct) are sometimes indistinct due to the fact that, when in being, a tendency exists for the one to assume the identifying properties of the other.

Cases exist where the name of a road has geographic significance. Canals are cultural features, but specific circumstances may favor their identification as geographic features and, consequently, a name may be applied to capitalize upon their geographic characteristics. Sometimes a place name will have application almost entirely to a cultural feature, such as a town, village, church, school, store, or depot. However, the principal generics encountered will be rivers, creeks, streams, lakes, ponds, mountains, ridges, peaks, and other items of ready definition and acceptance as geographic names.

The name of a lake or reservoir impounded by a dam is properly a responsibility of those working with geographic names, while the name of the dam is commonly the responsibility of the sponsor or builder.

The widespread interest in geographic names is indicative of

their importance. The Domestic Geographic Names Committee of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names<sup>1</sup> / reviews and correlates the data at the federal level. The Board has final authority with respect to the choice of names to appear on all federal maps, since it is obviously advantageous that the names be kept as uniform as possible. To aid in accomplishing this desirable end by providing liaison with the Board, the Utah Committee on Geographic Names<sup>2</sup> / has been established as an Advisory Board on Geographic Names. In addition to providing an official liaison with the Board, the Utah Committee coordinates name selection procedures for the state and does provide assistance to local governments and the general public.

The members of the Utah Committee represent various universities, Utah Board of History, Utah Historical Society, U. S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Representatives from the National Park Service, U. S. Geological Survey, Utah State Highway Department, Parks and Recreation, and the Fish and Game Department attend by invitation all meetings of the Utah Committee and serve for all practical purposes as very welcome ex-officio members of that committee. All state and federal agencies are encouraged to have representation at meetings of the Utah Committee when appropriate. Also, county and

<sup>1</sup> / Hereinafter known as the Board.

<sup>2</sup> / Hereinafter known as the Utah Committee.

city officials, local historians and interested individuals contribute name data according to their interests. This advice is sought and encouraged by the Utah Committee. Anyone involved in naming geographic features is urged to participate in this program and to seek approval and confirmation of suggested names by the Committee. Those proposing new names or name changes should submit proposals to the Utah Committee in accordance with this handbook.

## GUIDELINES FOR THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

### INTRODUCTION

Names have a special significance to persons using maps, charts or documents, as they identify geographic locations, recount history, commemorate people and events. Without geographic place names, communication would be difficult. The misspelling, misapplication, duplication or omission of a name may cause geographic confusion, complications in emergency situations, create resentment and impair the validity of an otherwise excellent map. In a broader sense, the strength, consistency and appropriateness of names are marks of the vigor, growth and permanence of a nation and its people. Much can be done to enhance historic heritage, color and picturesqueness of a region through judicious selection and preservation of significant and appropriate names.

Consequently, while geographic place naming is responsive to the needs and will of the public, it is of necessity a function that requires the supervision and coordination of local, state and federal government and their respective map-producing agencies. The Washington State Board on Geographic Names (established July 1973 by RCW 43.126.020) coordinates and approves names within the State of Washington. The U. S. Board formulates federal principles, policies and procedures related to both domestic and foreign geographic names, and determines the final choice, spelling and application of names for official national and international use. While it is the ultimate authority for federal usage, the U. S. Board works in close and dependent cooperation with the Washington State Board. Hence, application for proposed name changes, new names, spelling clarifications, etc., sent directly to the U. S. Board, are first referred to the State Board for local evaluation and recommendation.

*Persons wishing to suggest names or who seek clarifications are urged to make application through the Washington State Board. Applications may be obtained from and submitted to:*

Secretary  
Washington State Board on Geographic Names  
Department of Natural Resources  
Olympia, Washington 98504

As much justification as possible should be included to support proposals, especially concerning alteration or elimination of existing names.

*OBJECTIVES OF THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD  
ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES*

1. To serve as the responsible agent to coordinate the important place-naming activity between local, state and federal agencies;
2. To establish a procedure for the retention and formal recognition of existing names;
3. To standardize the procedures for naming or renaming geographic features within state boundaries;
4. To avoid or eliminate, whenever possible, the duplication of names and to correct spelling errors;
5. To retain and enhance the significance, heritage and distinctive color of names associated with the history and development of the state.

*COMPOSITION OF THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD*

1. Commissioner of Public Lands or representative (chairman of the Board);
2. Washington State Librarian or representative;
3. President of the Washington State Historical Society or representative;
4. Chairman of the Department of Geography, University of Washington, or representative;
5. Chairman of the Department of Geography, Washington State University, or representative;
6. Two members of the general public who are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Commissioner of Public Lands.

*AUTHORITY OF THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD*

The Washington State Board on Geographic Names is authorized by state law to establish the official names for the lakes, mountains, streams, places and other geographic features within the state and the spellings thereof, except in the rare instances of names specified by federal or state law. Geographic features, by definition, do not include manmade features or administrative areas such as parks, game preserves and dams, but do include towns and manmade lakes.

RCW 43.126.020, Section 3, Laws of 1973, says in part:

It shall be the duty of the . . . and it shall have the power and authority to:

- 1) Establish the official names for lakes, mountains, streams, towns, and other geographic features within the state and the spellings thereof . . .
- 2) Assign names to lakes . . .
- 3) Cooperate with county commissioners, state departments . . . to establish and/or determine appropriate names . . . and for the purpose of eliminating . . . duplication of place names within the state.
- 4) Serve as liaison with the United States Board . . .

Section 4 of the law states: "The Board is authorized to establish policies to carry out the purposes of this chapter . . ."

#### *PROCEDURES FOR REVIEWING NAMES*

1. The Board normally holds quarterly meetings; all meetings are open to the public.
2. Applications may be initiated by the State Board or by other agencies or individuals.
3. When insufficient information is provided with the application, the Board contacts the applicant and specifies the needed data. If the information is not provided by the second meeting after the request, the name is dropped from the docket and placed in the inactive file.
4. Upon receipt of an application, the State Board contacts individuals and groups in the private, public and governmental sectors who might have an interest in or be affected by the proposal.
5. At the same time, the name is advertised in local papers and is prepared for the docket of the next Board meeting.
6. Final action is taken on names only after a thorough field investigation, consideration at a previous Board meeting and public notice through advertisement in local papers.
7. Occasionally, decisions on disputed or questioned names are delayed pending further research and/or additional public input.
8. After the State Board arrives at a decision, the applicant is notified and the Board's recommendation is sent to the U. S. Board which renders final action and informs all concerned governmental agencies including, directly and indirectly, official and private mapmakers.

#### *GUIDELINES FOR NAMING*

##### *New Names Applied to Unnamed Features*

**Acceptable:**

1. Names in dominant local usage that are strongly supported by local residents;

2. Spelling and pronunciation sanctioned by local usage;
3. Euphonious and suitable names of Indian, pioneer or pertinent foreign origin;
4. Names suggested by peculiarities of topographic features, such as form, vegetation or animal life;
5. Pertinent, concise names in good taste, without derogatory or defamatory implications;
6. In the case of a river, it is preferable that the name usually follow its longest branch;
7. Names created by acts of the State Legislature, municipal councils or other local governing bodies with direct jurisdiction regarding geographic names, unless application of the names is in conflict with the established and interlocking naming principles followed by both the federal and state boards;
8. Names in conformity with the flavor of existing names in the area and, in the case of Indian names, names which adhere to correct (most standardized) spelling;
9. The relative importance of a feature commensurate with the importance of the name being applied. Thus, it is inappropriate to name a major peak for a relatively unknown individual or a small pond for a major personality.

**Avoid:**

1. Duplication of names within the state, particularly in small or contiguous areas;
2. Names that commemorate living persons;
3. Long and clumsily constructed names;
4. Multiplicity of names for different parts of the same feature, such as a river or mountain range. One name is preferable for the main stem of a stream or throughout the length of a single mountain range;
5. The use of hyphens;
6. Application of a personal name unless it is in the public interest and of historic significance;
7. Names with commercial overtones.

*Commemorative Names*

1. Must not commemorate living persons;
2. Only one feature of a kind after the same person;
3. The person so honored must have enduring honorable fame relative to the region;
4. Public service credentials must be truly significant and noteworthy in a broad area or sense;

5. The relative importance of the feature should be commensurate with the importance of the individual;
6. The person so honored should be closely associated with the feature.

*Changes in Naming, Spelling or Application*

1. Changes in existing names will generally be restricted to the elimination of names which are inappropriate, duplicative, defamatory and derogatory, or to names which have historically changed or corrupted from their original form, and to names with commercial overtones.
2. Changes in spelling will be encouraged to standardize form of a single (identical) name given to related features, to eliminate the use of the possessive apostrophe, e.g. Bell Creek rather than Bell's Creek, and to correct obvious spelling errors.
3. Changes in application are encouraged where the name is applied to the wrong feature, or where the title does not correctly reflect the technical definition of the feature to which applied, e.g. lagoon for lake or mountain for hill.
4. Changes should be supported by the local area.

*CONCLUSION*

The Washington State Board on Geographic Names is dedicated to perpetuating the rich and varied heritage of the state by the logical application of standardized naming guidelines, the elimination of controversial spelling, location and duplication, and the application of appropriate and acceptable names to unnamed features. To further this purpose, the Board will coordinate the ongoing naming process so that new and old titles correctly reflect existing common usage terms of residents and apply appropriate designations that aptly fit the history and topography of the Evergreen State.

## HISTORY

The duties and functions of the State Geographic Board were transferred by Section 25 (1) (A) of Chapter 75, Laws of 1967, to the Natural Resources Board. Subsequently the Natural Resources Board assigned the duties and functions of the former Geographic Board to the Bureau of Engineering, Division of Services, and retained the State Chief Engineer, the State Geologist and a designee from the Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, as advisors as a Geographic Names Council.

## STATUTORY AUTHORITY – SECTION 23.25 WIS. STATUTES: GEOGRAPHIC POWERS AND DUTIES

- (1) The department shall:
  - (a) Determine the correct and most appropriate names of the lakes, streams, places and other geographic features in the state, and the spelling thereof;
  - (b) Pass upon and give names to lakes, streams, places and other geographic features in the state for which no single generally accepted name has been in use;
  - (c) In cooperation with county boards and with their approval, to change the names of lakes, streams, places and other geographic features, with the end in view of eliminating, as far as possible, duplication of names within the state;
  - (d) Prepare and publish an official state dictionary of geographic names and to publish the same, either as a completed whole or in parts when ready;
  - (e) Serve as the state representative of the U. S. geographic board and cooperate with the said board to the end that there shall be no conflict between the state and federal designations of geographic features in the state.
- (2) Whenever the department has given a name to any lake, stream, place or other geographic feature within the state, or determined the correct spelling of any such name, it shall be used in all maps, reports and other publications thereafter issued by the state or any of its political subdivisions, and shall be deemed the official name of such geographic feature.
- (3) No person shall in any advertisement or publication attempt to modify local usage or name unnamed geographic features without first obtaining the approval of the department. In case of a violation of this subsection, the department may promptly announce its disapproval and thereafter adopt an official name for such feature.

## POLICIES OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN GEOGRAPHIC NAMES COUNCIL

It is the policy of the State of Wisconsin Geographic Names Council:

- (A) Not to name a geographic feature after any living person.
- (B) Names having a scientific derivation are not as a rule acceptable.
- (C) Names with historical significance or with Indian or French origin are usually appropriate, but care should be exercised that the Indian names are from tribes native to Wisconsin. They should not be too long nor difficult of pronunciation, however, and should be easy to remember.
- (D) That proper names for geographic features shall not be designated with “’s” or “’s”, indicating possession, following the name. For example: Mott Lake, rather than Mott’s Lake or Motts Lake.
- (E) That only lakes 10 acres or more in size shall be considered by the Council for naming unless reason is evidenced for special consideration by the Council.
- (F) That only streams 5 miles or more in length shall be considered by the Council for naming unless reason is evidenced for special consideration by the Council.

The U. S. Board on geographic names has indicated the following guidelines with reference to the naming of geographic features:

- (A) That local usage be followed whenever possible.
- (B) That the specific name precede the generic name; for example, preference is given to Alice Lake rather than Lake Alice.
- (C) That whenever practicable the recommended names include single names only followed by the generic name; for example, preference is given to Meyer Lake rather than John Meyer Lake.
- (D) That hyphens be omitted in newly established names.
- (E) That descriptive words such as “Big”, “Little”, etc. be eliminated unless they are necessary for proper identification of the feature.

# Appendix J

## WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC NAMES COUNCIL

### BYLAWS

JANUARY 1983

#### PURPOSE

The Western States Geographic Names Council is hereby established as a forum whose purposes shall be:

1. to preserve and protect geographic names as evidence of our unique cultural heritage,
2. to promote standardization of procedures for dealing with geographic names in order to save money at all levels of government and in the private sector,
3. to improve availability of names information to the public, government agencies, business, and others,
4. to co-sponsor an annual conference with a member state on a subject pertinent to geographic names in the West.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Western Geographic Names Council shall be:

1. One member and deputy from each state geographic names authority or recognized coordinator representing the following states:

Alaska	Nevada
Arizona	New Mexico
California	Oregon
Colorado	Texas
Hawaii	Utah
Idaho	Washington
Montana	Wyoming

2. Chairman of the Domestic Names Committee of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names,
3. Director of the Place-Name Survey of the United States.

## FUNCTIONS

The Council shall be the policy and administrative part of the organization and will appoint an executive secretary, be responsible for continuing an annual Conference, and implement recommendations made by the Conference.

## OFFICERS

The Chair of the Council shall be the representative from the member state hosting the next Annual Conference. The host state will be chosen by the Council at the previous Conference and shall begin duties at that time.

The Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Council and the position will be held until a new appointment is made. The Executive Secretary will be responsible for the continuity of Council functions, Council minutes, issuing a periodic newsletter, and other duties assigned by the Council.

## WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC NAMES CONFERENCE

### PURPOSE

The Conference provides the primary forum for the interchange of information, the discussion of policy matters, the resolving of problems that may arise between member states or between member states and federal agencies.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the CONFERENCE will consist of Council members present or represented by a deputy, members of the Federal Advisory Group, members of the International Advisory Group, other persons representing interested groups, individuals having an interest who pay the Conference registration fee.

### OFFICERS

The Chair of the Council and host for the Conference will be CHAIRMAN of the Conference; the Executive Secretary of the Council will be the SECRETARY of the Conference.

## FEDERAL ADVISORY GROUP

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership will be one (1) designated person from each of the U. S. Geological Survey's two mapping centers in the the region (Western Mapping Center and Rocky Mountain

Mapping Center); one (1) designated person from each of the six U.S. Forest Service Regions located in the fourteen (14) member states; one (1) designated person from each of the fourteen member state offices and two (2) persons designated by the National Park Service. The group shall choose its own officers.

FUNCTION

The Federal Advisory Group shall act as liaison between the Council and Conference and the map producing federal agencies; shall offer technical assistance to state agencies relative to name collection and cartographic techniques; shall advise Council and Conference relative to federal cartographic and other needs.

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP

MEMBERSHIP

Membership will be one (1) person from each province or state outside the borders of the United States and one (1) person representing the national or federal government from each country. The group shall choose its own officers.

FUNCTION

The International Advisory Group shall act to advise the Conference and Council as to geographic name policy in their respective countries/states or provinces; help resolve problems that may transcend international boundaries and assist in broadening the Conference perspectives relating to geographic names.

# Appendix K

Canadian  
Permanent Committee  
on Geographical Names

## **Principles and Procedures**

Published by the  
Surveys and Mapping Branch  
Department of Energy, Mines  
and Resources, Ottawa

Revised 1976

## Establishment

The first organization established to control geographical names in Canada was created by Order in Council in 1897, and was called the Geographic Board of Canada. It became the Canadian Board on Geographical Names in 1948 and the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names in 1961. The Committee reports to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

## Membership

The Committee is composed of seven representatives from federal departments concerned with mapping, archives, defence, translation and territorial administration, and a representative appointed by each province of Canada.

## Responsibilities and Functions

It is the responsibility of the Committee to deal with all questions of geographical nomenclature affecting Canada. Names within provinces become decisions of the Committee as decided by the respective provinces, and in the territories, national parks and Indian reserves as determined by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The Committee advises on a program of research and investigation into the origin and use of geographical names and on a program of publication of decisions and results of research.

The Committee meets once every calendar year. The Secretariat of the Committee is provided by the Surveys and Mapping Branch (EMR) in its Toponymy Division. The Chief of the Division serves the Committee as its Executive Secretary.

The work of the Committee is assisted by four advisory committees on undersea feature names, on language policy, on research and on glaciological and alpine names.

The Committee's chief means of disseminating its decisions is the Gazetteer of Canada series and its annual cumulative supplements. There are approximately 300,000 officially approved names in Canada and this total is increasing at a rate of about 5,000 each year.

Inquiries concerning the Committee, its responsibilities and functions and its publications should be submitted to:

Executive Secretary  
Geographical Names  
12th Floor, 580 Booth Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0E4  
or  
Telephone 613-992-3405

## Guiding Principles

### **Principle 1 Names Governed by Statutory Authority**

The names of municipalities, territorial divisions, reserves, parks and other legal entities as created by, or a result of, legislation by the appropriate government shall be accepted by the Committee.

### **Principle 2 Names Given by Other Agencies**

Postal authorities, railway companies, major utilities and resource development companies should seek the advice and the endorsement of the Committee concerning the use of geographical names connected with their operations.

### **Principle 3 Names in Public Use**

First consideration should be given to names with established public use. Unless there are good reasons to the contrary, this principle should prevail.

### **Principle 4 Preservation of Names**

Established names that have proved acceptable and satisfactory should not be changed or altered.

### **Principle 5 Uniformity for Single Entities**

Names applying to various service facilities (e.g., post offices, stations) should conform with the names of the communities which they serve. When proposing names for physical and cultural features, the complete entity to which each name applies should be determined to avoid the approval in the future of different names for sections of the same entity. It is not necessary, however, to extend the names of streams to the uppermost headwaters if large lakes intervene.

### **Principle 6 Duplication of Names**

Where established duplicated names and names similar in sound or spelling tend to cause confusion the Committee will seek local assistance to achieve distinctions among them. Duplication of new names to the extent that it may result in confusion should be avoided.

### **Principle 7 Language and Orthography**

Words of common origin for associated features should be uniform in spelling. The adoption of both English and French forms for the specific part of a name should be avoided.

although they may be accepted where sanctioned by established usage. The spelling, and accenting of names should agree with the rules of the language in which they are written. Hyphenation and the genitive apostrophe should be approved only when they are well established and in current usage.

### **Principle 8 Personal Names**

Personal names should not be used unless it is in the public interest to honour a person by applying such a name to a geographical feature. Names should be derived from persons who have significantly contributed to the area of the features selected. The application of a personal name during the lifetime of the person concerned should only be made in exceptional circumstances. Ownership of land should never in itself be grounds for the application of the owner's or donor's name to a geographical feature.

### **Principle 9 Preferred Sources for Names**

In approving names for previously unnamed features the following sources are recommended: descriptive names appropriate to the features; pioneers, war casualties and historical events connected with the area; names from native languages currently or formerly identified with the general area.

### **Principle 10 Amerindian and Inuit Names**

Names of Amerindian (Indian) and Inuit (Eskimo) origin will be recorded according to a recognized Romanized orthography or according to the considered opinion of recognized linguistic authorities.

### **Principle 11 Form and Character of Names**

Forms that should be avoided are:

- (a) unnatural or incongruous combinations of words, including combinations of words of different languages and fusions of Christian and surname elements;
- (b) cumbersome and unpronounceable names;
- (c) corrupted or modified names;
- (d) obscene or blasphemous names;
- (e) discriminatory or derogatory names from the point of view of race, sex, colour, creed, political affiliation or other social factors;
- (f) names that could be construed as advertising particular commercial or industrial enterprises.

**Principle 12 Qualifying Terminology**

Qualifying words may be used in an area to distinguish between two or more features with identical names. Such words may be derived from other local features or may be terms such as “upper”, “new”, “west branch” and “big”. Wherever possible new names should be distinctive.

**Principle 13 Generic Terminology**

When a geographical name includes both a specific and a generic element, the generic term must be appropriate to the nature of the feature. Its position shall be dictated by euphony and usage. The generic term shall be recorded in the language having priority of local usage or origin, although publishers may choose the relative term in the language of their maps and publications.

**Principle 14 Names Outside Canada**

Geographical names in foreign countries should be rendered in forms adopted by each country except where there are recognized English or French equivalents established by appropriate international authorities.

**Procedures****Proposals**

Except in exceptional circumstances the Committee itself does not initiate naming. Most new names approved by the Committee are derived from the general public and from organizations. Such names should be for specific geographical features.

Individuals or organizations contemplating the publication of geographical names should submit proposals well in advance of publication dates. The consideration of new names may require considerable time, particularly when local investigation is required. The publication of unauthorized names will not necessarily result in official recognition.

New proposals should be for specific geographical features.

Descriptive names and names relating to the history of an area are preferred. The following information accompanied by adequate documentation will facilitate prompt decisions:

- (a) location by latitude and longitude, specifying map consulted;
- (b) identification on a map indicating precise extent;
- (c) photographs or sketches;

- (d) reason for proposals;
- (e) origin;
- (f) evidence that features are unnamed.

### **Changes**

Reliable, preferably documented, information concerning corrections in the use, spelling or application of toponyms on maps and charts and in other publications is welcomed by the Committee.

### **Inquiries**

General inquiries about the Committee and its policies and publications may be submitted to the

Executive Secretary  
Geographical Names  
12th Floor, 580 Booth Street  
Ottawa, K1A 0E4  
Telephone:  
613-992-3405

PRINCIPLES  
OF GEOGRAPHICAL  
NAMING

1975

THE ONTARIO  
GEOGRAPHIC  
NAMES BOARD



Ontario

# INTRODUCTION

## Establishment

Passage of the Ontario Geographic Names Board Act of 1968 by the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario provided for establishment of the Province's first independent geographical names and naming authority. Proclamation followed in 1969.

The province's first Toponymist was recruited to its staff in 1967, followed in 1970 by appointment of the Board's Executive Secretary by the Minister of Lands and Forests. The Board attained operational status in 1971 with the final five appointments to its membership by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Four members were recruited from the private sector and three from the civil service (Departments of Lands and Forests and Public Records and Archives).

## Membership

### 1971-1974 Board

Surveyor General  
Executive Secretary  
Geographer (Chairman)  
Historian (Vice-Chairman)  
Native Person (Cree Chief)  
Linguist (Ojibwa-Odawa)  
Archivist of Ontario

### Secretariat (4 members)

### 1974-1977 Board

Surveyor General  
Executive Secretary  
Photogrammetrist (Chairman)  
Archivist of Ontario (Vice-Chairman)  
Native Person (Ojibwa Chief)  
Map Librarian (University of Toronto)  
Linguist (Ojibwa-Odawa)

### Secretariat (5 members)

With the exception of the Surveyor General (who serves *ex officio*) and the Executive Secretary, Board members are appointed for terms of three years. Four members constitute a quorum.

## Functions and Responsibilities

As the duly constituted provincial authority responsible for control and regulation of names and naming of natural geographical features, unincorporated populated places, localities and other topographical entities comprising the

physical and cultural landscape of Ontario, the Ontario Geographic Names Board decides all geographical name issues and directs all toponymic research within and of direct concern to the Province of Ontario.

The Board's jurisdiction encompasses all geographical features and place names in the Province which owe their existence to local usage and includes all features and populated places whose origins and continued existence in the physical and cultural landscape are not dependent upon or governed by statutory or other authority. Natural geographical features (formed and maintained as natural geographical features by natural agencies and processes) and cultural geographical features (formed and maintained as cultural geographical features by human agency and design) constitute the two general categories of geographical naming of concern to the Board. A geographical feature whose origins are traceable to human agency and design but whose present form and existence is maintained by natural processes (e.g. lake in an abandoned quarry) is treated as a natural feature. A reservoir maintained as a reservoir is not.

The Board's basic functions are those of collecting, researching, processing and disseminating geographical name information; consulting, advising and making recommendations to and collaborating with municipal, provincial and federal authorities who have or require that information. As custodian and provider of all official name information on geographical features and places in Ontario, the Board ensures a level of credibility and control in geographical nomenclature prerequisite to compilation and production of topographical and planimetric maps at both the provincial and federal level.

So constituted, cartographic toponymy in Ontario furnishes geographical name data to all agencies, organizations, companies, commissions, etc. responsible for postal communications, law enforcement, fire control, forest protection, travel and recreation, parks and conservation, resource development, management and planning, etc. requiring accurate, standardized and readily accessible geographical name references for coordination and management of their operations.

The Ontario principles of geographical naming are based on the research and experience of the Board and Secretariat Membership, on the expertise and know-how of the former Department and present Ministry cartographic staff and, in no small measure, on the experience and common sense of other authorities engaged in similar work and confronted with comparable problems. Especially valuable in this regard have been the Board's personal and official connections with the Province of Québec's Commission de Géographie; Britain's Ordnance Survey and Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for Official Use; the University of Toronto's Centre for Culture and Technology; the University of Laval's Le Groupe d'étude de choronymie et de terminologie géographique; the Manitoba Government's Surveys, Mapping and Lands Branch, Department of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management and Austria's Department of Cartographic Toponymy, Austrian Cartographic Commission, Oesterreichische Geographische Gesellschaft, Vienna.

The Ontario Geographic Names Board's debt to the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names is acknowledged. Special mention is made of the support and encouragement received during the Board's initial years from Toponymy Division, Surveys and Mapping Branch, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa.

Ontario has developed and maintains a geographical names control and information

organization (the first of its kind in English-speaking Canada) with an already proven capacity for keeping pace with change in its own field. It continues to promote systematic control of geographical names and naming consistent with the local usage or territorial principle; has formulated classifications of geographical features and populated places compatible with the naming and geographical referencing priorities of toponymy and cartography and continues to foster more effective cooperation between toponymists and cartographers in matters common to both information systems.

The future course of cartographic toponymy in Canada rests as much on the strength of its associations and interests with persons and groups who participated and continue to participate in its research and development, as it does on the direction, enthusiasm and credibility imparted to it by toponymists, linguists, geographers and cartographers within the profession itself. The Board is confident that the publication of its principles will be regarded as a significant contribution to Canadian toponymy — one in which Ontario's role may well be recognized as one of the most progressive in the field since establishment of the Geographic Board of Canada in 1897.

Michael B. Smart  
Executive Secretary  
Ontario Geographic Names Board  
1975

# PRINCIPLES

## 1. JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD

### (a) Features and Places

The Board's prime area of responsibility and authority in the Province lies with the naming and control of names given to natural geographical features (lakes, rivers, islands, etc.), unincorporated populated places, localities and other cultural geographical entities whose names have their origins in local usage.

The geographical location of a topographical feature, populated place or locality within the boundaries of a municipality, or other jurisdictional area (national park, Indian reserve, etc.) does not alter or limit the Board's jurisdiction over the naming of, or control of names given to, such entities.

Names approved by the Board are recognized as official for all municipal, provincial and federal maps, charts, gazetteers and related publications.

Geographical names accorded official status before the establishment of The Ontario Geographic Names Board shall not be altered or deleted from official maps, charts, gazetteers, etc., except at the request of a local or official authority recognized by the Board — or on evidence that such a name constitutes a serious contravention of one or more of the Board's principles.

### (b) Advisory Role of the Board

The Board will advise and assist transport, navigation, communication and resource development companies, agencies, commissions, etc., responsible for railways, roads and highways, air services, harbours, canals, post offices, hydro-electric power development, logging, mining, oil, gas and mineral exploration, etc., in the selection, standardization and official approval of geographical names used in their operations.

The Board is similarly prepared to assist the general public and to advise other governmental bodies at the municipal, provincial and federal level in all matters relating to geographical names and naming in the province.

### (c) Other Statutory Authorities

Names of territorial divisions and places governed by other provincial or federal statutes, including territorial or judicial districts, municipalities,

Indian reserves, provincial or federal parks, geographic townships, etc. should be transmitted to the Board for entry into the official record.

### (d) Other Cultural Features

Names of secondary roads, bridges, dams, reservoirs and other cultural-topographical features not governed by other statutory authority shall be considered for entry into the official record.

Such names must be in well established current local use and, in the opinion of the Board, essential geographical references for official maps, charts, gazetteers and publications of the area, or areas, concerned.

## 2. NAMING GUIDELINES

### (a) Local Usage

In recommending or approving geographical names the Board accords first consideration to those which are well established and in current local use. This principle shall take precedence over any of the following — unless there are convincing reasons to the contrary.

Equal consideration is given names of features geographically remote from centres of population which are also well established and in current use.

Where no current name is known to exist for a feature for which the Board requires an official name but for which an historical name is known, restoration of the former name will be given serious consideration by the Board.

In circumstances where neither current nor historical name is known, the Board shall consider the adoption of a suitably descriptive or commemorative name.

### (b) Descriptive Naming

In instances where a name is required for a feature for which neither current nor historical name exists or where the existing name is regarded by the Board as unsuitable, consideration shall be given to the adoption of a name uniquely descriptive of the feature itself.

Such names as Boulder Creek, Lac du Rocher Fendu, Three Narrows Lake, Pointe au Sable and Lake Kashagawigamog fall within this category.

### (c) Commemorative Naming

In naming geographical features and places the Board may recommend the name of a person associated with a particular area, feature or place, provided that the person concerned is — with rare exceptions — deceased; and has made, in the opinion of the Board, an outstanding contribution to the cultural legacy of the Province or to the development of the area, feature or place in question.

The Board must be satisfied that the commemoration meets with public approval.

A name commemorative of an event in the history or tradition of the area, feature or place shall be accorded similar consideration.

### (d) Ownership of Land

Ownership of land is not, in itself, grounds for recommending the adoption of a personal name for a geographical feature, place or locality.

### (e) Naming After Living Persons

The naming of a natural geographical feature, unincorporated populated place or locality after a living person is discouraged and opposed in principle.

### (f) Complex Feature Names

Different names given to different parts or extensions of what may cartographically be defined as a single topographical feature (e.g. chain of interconnected lakes, river system inclusive of tributaries and distributaries, bay, harbour, ridge, point or peninsula) will be favourably considered by the Board if well established and in current use.

## 3. STANDARDIZATION AND DUPLICATION

### (a) Name Uniformity

The spelling of geographical names having a common origin (e.g. Temagami, Timagami, Temagaming, Tamagaminque, etc.) applied or used in names given to features, places and localities occupying the same geographical area (e.g. post offices, railway stations, airports, harbours and adjacent communities) should be the same.

### (b) Name Duplication

Duplication of geographical names to the extent that confusion may result is to be avoided.

### (c) Qualifying Terms

Where a geographical name is a source of confusion because —

i) it has been applied to two or more topographical features of the same sort (e.g. three lakes, two islands, two rivers, etc.) in what is locally regarded as being the same geographical area;

OR

ii) it is used as a single name for a topographically complex feature or place made up of separate parts (river-tributary system, chain of interconnected lakes, dispersed rural community, etc.);

the Board may recommend adoption of qualifying terms such as upper, lower, big, little, north, south, east or west branch, etc. where it is difficult or inadvisable to delete an established name or to introduce a new one. The introduced term should be appropriate to the feature, or features, concerned.

Qualifying terms shall be in either of the two official languages (English or French), whichever is the language of local government or administration in the area directly associated with the feature in question.

## 4. ORTHOGRAPHY

### (a) French Names

In areas of the Province where both English and French are languages of government and administration, choice of a single official name for a geographical feature or populated place shall be in accord with the language of local government and administration in the area directly associated with the feature or place concerned.

French geographical names which are well established and in current local use shall be recommended for adoption as official names in accordance with orthographic norms (accents, apostrophes, hyphens, etc.) appropriate to that linguistic tradition.

With the possible exception of certain continuous features which form or cross provincial boundaries, the Board shall ensure that no geographical feature or place within the Province has more than one official name in use at any one time.

## **(b) Amerindian Names**

Amerindian geographical names (Ojibway and Cree for the most part) not previously approved in either an English or French official phonetic form (e.g. Ottawa/Outaouais, Waswagami/Ouasouagami), shall be transcribed without diacritical marks or accents, in accordance with a standardized system of notation and spelling approved by the Board.

In areas of the Province where Amerindian names are well established and in current use, special consideration shall be given their adoption as official names if they can be rendered in a form acceptable to the Board. (See "Unacceptable Names" 5(b).)

## **(c) English Possessive and Hyphenated Forms**

A geographical name belonging to either the English possessive or hyphenated form — as in Burk's Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, etc., or governed by other English orthographic norms — as in Baden-Powell Lake — will be considered for adoption in that form by the Board if consistent with and supported by a well established and current local (or official) usage.

iii) are meaningful only to a limited number of specialists,

iv) would be considered out of place, linguistically or culturally, in the area or region concerned.

# **5. FORM AND CHARACTER OF NAMES**

## **(a) Name Integrity**

The unique or local character of an established geographical name shall be respected. Any name alteration, translation, deletion or symbolization not approved or adopted locally is discouraged and opposed in principle.

## **(b) Unacceptable Names**

In considering the adoption of established geographical names for official use, the Board shall withhold recommendation or approval of any names which, in its estimation, may be too cumbersome or unpronounceable for general use (cf. Capoonnacaucumistic River).

Names to be avoided in geographical naming are those which — in the opinion of the Board —

i) are derogatory,

ii) can be construed as advertising a particular commercial or industrial product or enterprise,



ONTARIO

# The Ontario Geographic Names Board Act

Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1970  
CHAPTER 314

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DECEMBER  
1971

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TORONTO

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM KINMOND, QUEEN'S PRINTER AND PUBLISHER

## CHAPTER 314

# The Ontario Geographic Names Board Act

- 1.** In this Act, Interpre-  
tation
- (a) "Board" means The Ontario Geographic Names Board;
  - (b) "Minister" means the Minister of Lands and For-  
ests. R.S.O. 1970, c. 314, s. 1.
- 2.—**(1) The Ontario Geographic Names Board is continued. Board  
continued
- (2) The Board shall be composed of the Surveyor General, a Membership  
of the  
Board  
secretary appointed by the Minister, and five other members  
appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.
- (3) The Minister may appoint one of the members of the Board Chairman  
as chairman and one as vice-chairman.
- (4) The members of the Board shall receive such remuneration Remunera-  
tion, etc.  
and expenses as the Lieutenant Governor in Council may deter-  
mine. R.S.O. 1970, c. 314, s. 2.
- 3.—**(1) The Board shall meet at such times and places as the Meetings  
chairman appoints and the chairman shall appoint a time and  
place for a meeting on the request of three members.
- (2) Four members constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Quorum  
Board.
- (3) Except as provided in subsections 4 and 5, the chairman Duty of  
chairman  
shall preside at all meetings of the Board.
- (4) In the absence of the chairman and subject to subsection 5, Duty of  
vice-  
chairman  
the vice-chairman shall preside at meetings of the Board.
- (5) In the absence of the chairman and the vice-chairman from Temporary  
chairman  
a meeting, the Board may appoint a member as temporary  
chairman to preside at the meeting.
- (6) The secretary shall, Duties of  
secretary
- (a) keep a record of all proceedings of the Board;
  - (b) conduct the correspondence of the Board; and
  - (c) perform such other duties as the Board may direct.
- (7) In the absence of the secretary, the Board may appoint a Temporary  
secretary  
member to act *pro tempore* as secretary.

Powers of Board

(8) The Board shall,

- (a) gather, collate and record information respecting names of places and geographical features within Ontario;
- (b) consult with and advise government departments and agencies, municipalities, railway companies and other bodies or persons concerned with the selection of place names on the suitability of proposed names for places and geographical features;
- (c) consider and make recommendations respecting any proposed change in the name of any place or geographical feature already in use that may be duplicated by or be similar to any established name of a place or geographical feature or that for any other reason may be deemed or be represented to be inappropriate to the place or geographical feature to which it is applied;
- (d) collaborate with the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names respecting the selection of new geographical names, the elimination of alternative or duplicated names, the correct or preferred spelling of established names and such other matters respecting geographical names as may be of concern to the Board or the Committee;
- (e) supply information regarding geographical names to government departments and agencies, cartographers, publishers, and any other persons engaged in the preparation of maps or other publications intended for official or public use; and
- (f) recommend to the Minister for approval the names of geographical features. R.S.O. 1970, c. 314, s. 3.

Official names

4.—(1) The Minister may approve a name recommended by the Board for a geographical feature.

Approved names to be used on maps, etc.

(2) A name approved under subsection 1 shall be used by all government departments and agencies in the preparation of maps and other publications. R.S.O. 1970, c. 314, s. 4.

Statutes, etc., not affected

5. No statute, regulation, order, contract, summons, information, writ or other document affecting legal rights shall be deemed to be invalid merely by reason of the use of a name of a geographical feature that has not been approved by the Minister under section 4. R.S.O. 1970, c. 314, s. 5.

# PROCEDURE FOR NAME SUBMISSION

Inquiries concerning names of specific geographical features and unincorporated places, name suggestions for unnamed features, spelling or location corrections, or proposals to change official names, should be submitted to:

The Ontario Geographic Names Board  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
Whitney Block, Queen's Park  
Toronto M7A 1X1

The consideration of a proposal may require extensive investigation before a decision can be made. However, if the Board receives sufficient documentation of the proposed name's suitability, and of local support for it, the processing time can often be greatly reduced.

## NAME SUBMISSION FORM

Please supply the necessary information by completing this application and attaching additional documentation where available. PLEASE PRINT.

1) Is the application concerned with a place?

geographical feature?

2) If a feature, what is it? e.g. lake, river \_\_\_\_\_

3) If name applies to a place, please give approximate population \_\_\_\_\_  
or other descriptive details e.g. scattered farm community, six houses, mining  
camp at end of railway spur.

4) Location: Latitude \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude \_\_\_\_\_

Geographical Township \_\_\_\_\_

County or Municipal Division (e.g. Regional Municipality) \_\_\_\_\_

Map Identification: Indicate position and extent of feature or  
place as precisely as possible on map, map  
photocopy, or sketch map. If existing  
location is incorrect please mark correct  
location on your enclosed map.

### Name Change

When suggesting a change in a name presently shown on a government map, or correcting  
spelling or location, please complete sections A,B,C.

### New Name

When suggesting a new name for an unnamed feature or place please refer to principles  
outlined in this booklet, and complete sections A and C only.

A) 1) Please explain your association with place or feature: e.g. vacationing locally  
for several summers, nearby residents, etc.

ii) What is your name proposal? \_\_\_\_\_

iii) If it is a change from a name shown on maps, what is the reason for the change?

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iv) Is the name you propose used by local residents or authorities (e.g. cottagers, trappers, district management staff)?

Yes  No

If yes, approximate length of time used? \_\_\_\_\_

v) Origin of proposed name? \_\_\_\_\_

If after a person/persons, please explain briefly the contribution made to the area:

---

Deceased? Yes  No

b) i) What name is shown for the feature/place on government maps? \_\_\_\_\_

ii) Origin of name shown on map? \_\_\_\_\_

If after a person/persons, please explain briefly the contribution made to the area:

---

Deceased? Yes  No

iii) Is the name shown on map used by area residents? Yes  Approximate length of time used \_\_\_\_\_

c) i) Are any other names used locally for the feature/place? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, length of time used? \_\_\_\_\_

Origins of other name(s) used? \_\_\_\_\_

If after a person/persons, please explain briefly the contribution made to the area:

---

Deceased? Yes  No

ii) Additional support for proposal: e.g. agreement of local government agency \_\_\_\_\_

---

(please attach maps, letters, etc. if this space is inadequate)

iii) Please give at least one local source from whom we may gather data about the feature or place:

Source Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

iv) Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

