

ARIZONA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC AND HISTORIC NAMES

STATUTORY AUTHORITY – A.R.S. §41-835-838

The significance of geographic names was recognized by the State as early as 1945, when Arizona's Legislature declared it to be the policy of the state that geographic features retain the names they currently had in order to preserve Arizona's historical records. In 1982, the Arizona Board was created, and in 1990, the Arizona Legislature gave responsibility for determining the most appropriate names for geographic features to it.

Statutes that define the responsibilities of the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names, directs the board to:

- Receive and evaluate all proposals for changes in or additions to names of geographic features and places of historical significance in this state. It designates the most appropriate and acceptable names and the spelling of these names for use in maps and official government documents.
- Receive and evaluate all proposals for naming geographic features in this state for which no generally accepted name is or has been in use. It designates the most appropriate and acceptable name names and the spelling of these names for use in maps and official government documents;
- Cooperate with political subdivisions of this state to eliminate the duplication of the names of geographic features that are not of historical significance,
- Assist and cooperate with the United States Board on Geographic Names in matters relating to names of geographic features and places in this state;
- Maintain a list of advisers who have expertise in this state's history, geography, or culture and consult with those advisers in evaluating proposals;
- Designate one or more members to act as the state representative to the Council of Geographic Names Authorities.

Correct, accurate, authentic geographic names are essential to search and rescue efforts, law enforcement, land administration, boaters and hikers, etc. The primary purpose of the State Board is to standardize names of geographic features so that all levels of government and jurisdictions use the same name for the same feature.

The Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names provides citizens the opportunity to name, rename, and research geographic names in the state of Arizona.

It is the mission of the board to provide appropriate and official names for the State of Arizona. Without the board, Arizona names would be decided at the federal government level without Arizona's voice.

REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2004 – 2005

Geographic Names Considered and Acted Upon

2004

- *Barry Goldwater Peak* – Commemorative new name for the unnamed highest summit in the White Tank Mountains, Maricopa County (Approved)
- *Glen Canyon Reservoir* – Proposed name change from Lake Powell (Rejected)

2005

- *Banning Creek* – Proposed spelling change for Bannon Creek, Prescott National Forest, Yavapai County (Approved)
- *Echeverriah Point* – Proposed spelling change for Chiavria Point in Grand Canyon National Park (Rejected)
- *Sammie Rock* – Proposed new name for unnamed rock pillar on the Colorado River, Yuma County (Rejected)

New and continuing Board members

The Board welcomed Lisa Henderson of the Arizona Dept. of Commerce as a new member. Ms Henderson was appointed in 2004 and will serve until January 2010.

Eugene Trobia of the Arizona State Land Dept. was appointed for another six year term in 2004. He will serve until January 2010.

Joy Hernbrode of the Office of the Arizona Attorney General was appointed as a Board advisor, replacing Patty Boland.

Review of Board Bylaws

The board's bylaws were reviewed for consistency with state statute. It was determined that two bylaws, one allowing for deputy members and one stipulating that the board could not take action if both public members were present, were inconsistent with state statute. The board discontinued having deputy members starting with the January 2005 meeting.

Review Text added to State Board web page

The phrase “Native American tribal governments” was added to the list of entities mentioned on the web page that Board staff contact in researching a name proposal. The addition will help the Board communicate more effectively with those who which to interact with it.