

## 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 or 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 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 2006 - 2007**

### **Geographic Names Considered and Acted Upon**

#### **2006**

- *Lost Dog Wash (Docket 2006-1)* – Proposed new name for wash in the Sonoran McDowell Preserve. The City of Scottsdale submitted the proposal (Approved)
- *Taliesin Wash (Docket 2006-2)* – Proposed new name for a wash in the Sonoran McDowell Preserve. The City of Scottsdale submitted the proposal (Approved)
- *Taliesin Overlook (Docket 2006-3)* – Proposed new name for feature in the Sonoran McDowell Preserve. The City of Scottsdale submitted the proposal (Approved)
- *Happy Houston Highway (Docket 2006-4)* – Proposed name for Pima County portion of I-10 in honor of Elbert T. "Happy" Houston, former two term state senator and Mayor of Tucson. Mr. Bill Kalt of Tucson submitted the proposal. (Rejected)

- *Camp Bouse Peak (Docket 2006-5)* – Proposed new name for a summit in La Paz County. The Bouse, AZ Chamber of Commerce submitted the proposal. (initial review, no action taken)
- *The Flatiron (no docket)* – Correction on revision of the Goldfield 7.5' USGS topographic map. *The Flatiron* was incorrectly labeled on the old map. Board voted to approve correct placement of name on map revision.

## 2007

- *Camp Bouse Peak (Docket 2006-5)* - Proposed new name for a summit in La Paz County (Approved)
- *Shadow Mountain (Docket 2007-1)* – Name proposal to formalize name for summit in Phoenix Mountains in use locally for 40+ years but not listed in Geographic Names Information System (Approved)
- *Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park (Docket 2007-2)* – Name change proposal for Yuma Crossing State Historic Park (Approved)

## **New Board member**

The Board welcomed Kathy Waite, Policy and Planning Administration, Arizona Dept. of Economic Security. Ms. Waite will finish the term of Linda Strock, the previous DES member who retired from state service in December 2006. Ms. Waite was appointed in 2007 and will serve until January 2010.

## **Staff reports**

Board staff researched following topics per request of Board members:

- Anthem Way (road name change filed by Dell Webb, the City of Phoenix and Maricopa County to change name of Honda Bow Road to Anthem Way)
- Duplicate Sterling Canyon place names in Coconino National Forest

Board staff worked with United States Board on Geographic Names on:

- Corrections for records for Queen Creek and Rittenhouse names in Geographic Names Information System (GNIS is the official repository of domestic geographic names data managed by the US Geological Survey).

### **Member attendance at the Council of Geographic Names Authorities annual meeting**

Board reviewed past practice regarding member attendance at the COGNA meeting. The State Library provides travel fund assistance to Board staff and Chair. The Chair will be the Board's designated representative to COGNA. The Chair would attend the annual meeting using financial support from his or her agency, if available, but could request funding from the State Library should his agency not provide funding. The Vice Chair and Board staff attended the 2006 COGNA meeting in Boulder, CO with funding provided by the State Library.

### **Updates to Names Board web site**

The Names Board created Bylaws in 1999. Upon review, some Bylaws appear to conflict with state statute and therefore were removed from the Board's web site.

### **Memorandum of Understanding for county governments regarding road name changes**

The Board will develop an MoU to clarify the Board's role in names issues with Arizona counties that have a review process for road name changes. The MoU will also be used as a communications tool for counties that do not notify the Board of local road name changes.