

ARIZONA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC AND HISTORIC NAMES
FY 2010 report

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 2009- 2010

Geographic Names Considered and Acted Upon

2009

- *San Tan Valley* (Docket 2009-1) Proposed new name for an unincorporated area in Pinal County. No action take by Board because naming unincorporated areas is not within the Board's purview.
- *Inspiration Peak* (Docket 2009-2) Proposed new name for an unnamed summit adjacent to Pinnacle Peak in Scottsdale, AZ. (under review)
- *Sonoran Mountain* (Docket 2009-3) Proposed new name for an unnamed summit adjacent to Pinnacle Peak in Scottsdale, AZ. (under review)

2010

- *Inspiration Peak* (Docket 2009-2) Proposed new name for an unnamed summit adjacent to Pinnacle Peak in Scottsdale, AZ. (under review)
- *Sonoran Mountain* (Docket 2009-3. Proposed new name for an unnamed summit adjacent to Pinnacle Peak in Scottsdale, AZ. (under review)
- *Boner Creek* (Docket 2009-4) Proposed new name for an unnamed stream in Mohave County (Approved)
- *Kane Cairn* (Docket 2010-1) Proposed spelling change for Cane Cairn in Coconino County (Rejected)
- *Kane Canyon* (Docket 2010-2) Proposed spelling change for Cane Canyon in Coconino County (Rejected)
- *Kane Ranch* (Docket 2010-3) Proposed spelling change for Cane Ranch in Coconino County (Approved)
- *Kane Ridge* (Docket 2010-4) Proposed spelling change for Cane Ridge in Coconino County (Rejected)
- *Kane Springs* (Docket 2010-5) Proposed spelling change for Cane Springs in Coconino County (Rejected)
- *Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range* (Docket 2010-6) Proposed new name for a military electronic test range in Cochise, Santa Cruz and Pima Counties (Approved)

New and returning Board members

The Board welcomed one new member:

Dr. Stephen Yool, School of Geography and Development, University of Arizona. Dr. Yool will serve until January 2012

Three Board members were re-appointed for five year terms ending in January 2015:

Lisa Henderson, Arizona Department of Commerce

Gene Trobia, Arizona State Land Department

Kathy Waite, Arizona Department of Economic Security

Sunset Review

2009-2010

During the 2009 interim, the House Government Committee of Reference and the Senate Government Institutions Committee of Reference held a sunset hearing and approved a recommendation to continue the Board for 10 years. The review was conducted as part of the Legislative Review of Agencies set forth in the Arizona Revised States (A.R.S.) Sections 41-2951 through 41-2958.

On April 26, 2010, Governor Brewer signed HB 2046 which continues the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names (Board) retroactive to July 1, 2010 until July 1, 2020. The bill also prohibits the Board from designating a name for a geographic feature that commemorates any person until that person has been deceased for at least five years; defines *geographic features* and *places of historical significance* or *historic place*, makes technical and conforming changes, and contains a purpose statement.

Council on Geographic Names Authorities annual meeting

The staff member attended the 2009 COGNA meeting in Charleston, SC (Sept. 8 – 12).