PLACE NAMES PREFACE

To determine the origin of place names is a very
difficult and almost never ending task for several
reasons. First of all in regard to the Selway Bitterroot
Wilderness many of the features have had their names for
over seventy-five years without the source of the name's
origin officially recorded. Because many name origins
were not initially recorded for posterity, often they were
lost. Meanwhile well meaning pioneers as well as new
comers to the area construed plausible theories as to
why a feature has a particular name. In time with much
repetition by word of mouth certain features have two
contradictory name origins which are equally hailed as
the gospel truth. What further complicates matters is
man's rationale for selecting the correct choice. People
often tend to support the version they hear first as the
correct version, while others judge the accuracy by the
personal character of the teller. Both methods are
fallacious in themselves, and as to whether the real
origin is selected is coincidental. Both methods do
ingrain confusion and continue fallacious cycles.

I have included in this list of Place Names more
than one entry for particular features where there is
variance in source information, as for example, Friday
Place Names Preface p. 2.

Pass, Lottie and Maud Lakes. Selway/Selwai and Lolo are two extreme examples of names with highly controversial origins. Excluded from this compilation are the name-origins recorded in Sister Alfreda's *Pioneer Days in Idaho County*. I did this because frequently the source of the name origin was not cited in her text. I have limited my entries to sources from the National Forests' files at the R.O. and S.O. level and at the Federal Record Center in Seattle. Names from personal interviews I conducted are also herein recorded.

Another problem of compiling the origin of place names is of duplication of names for two separate features. For example, one National Forest may have two Indian Hills or Creeks. Therefore, when a name's origin is given for such a feature and the exact location is not given, which of the two features is not known. Therefore, to avoid further confusion through improper assumptions, the reader will note that I have left the location entry blank where it was not given in source compilations.

In contrast where two entries are cited for one feature, but the locations are slightly different, I transcribed the locations as I found them recorded. Archer Mountain is a good example of procedure. It has four entries, two of which have the same location, one slightly different location, and one location not recorded at all. In this case it is obvious that Archer Mountain is the same feature for all four entries for there are
portion of land outside the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness but within the National Forest on which it lies.

This preface's purpose is not to nullify the accuracy of all the place names within but to acquaint the reader with the inherent problems and the possibility of recording discrepancies. Many features more recently named initially had their origins officially recorded and preserved in National Forest files or by the National Geographic Place Names Board and may be regarded as correct. Koch Mountain is an obvious example.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Ackerman
Writer-Editor
BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Place Names)

Part I: (Material which was gleaned from S.O., R.O., and Federal Record Center files and now is collected and organized in the Place Name File.)

Annual Geographical Place Names Reports

District 1, Bitterroot Forest 2/3/26
Report plus accompanying map for Lynx Creek.

District 1, Bitterroot Forest 1/2/35 Moose Creek District Reports, accompanying letters and maps for: Wahoo Peak (formerly Squaw Peak), Freezeout Mtn., sponge mts. Lizard Peak, Doe Point, Long Lake, and California Point.

Region 1, Bitterroot Forest, 1/18/40
Accompanying letters and map for: Gem Lake

Region 1, Bitterroot Forest 1/3/41
Report and accompanying letters for: Dollar Lake, Painted Rocks Lake, Lake Crystal, Lake Turbid.

Region 1, Bitterroot Forest 4/3/41
Report for Trapper Peak change to Sherman Mtn.

Region 1, Bitterroot Forest, 2/16/55
Report and accompanying letters and newsarticles for Koch Mtn.

Region 1, Moose Creek District, 1/2/35
Reports for Cox Creek (formerly called Goat Creek), Pettibone Creek (Formerly called Indian Creek), Wahoo Creek (formerly called Big Creek), and Larson Creek.

Region 1, Nezperce Forest 1/27/36
Report and accompanying map and letters for Parsons Lake, Reluctant Lake, Legend Lake, and Jesse Lake.
Unpublished Britton Manuscripts

Cope, Joshua A. "Memorandum for Geography: (Being a synopsis of a talk given before the Geographical Society of Dist. 1, the 12th of April, 1916, at Missoula, Montana, and herewith set down at the instance of F.E. Bonner)" 7/1/16

Manuscript divided into Greek, Latin, French, Indian, English derivatives. Within these divisions the names of interest are Nezperce, Lolo, Clearwater, and Bitterroot.

Cronemiller, F.P. "Meaning of Some of the Spanish Names of Places in and Near the National Forests of Region 5." San Francisco, California, 1/30/41, 3pp.

Little application to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.


Noticeable absence of place names within today's wilderness boundary because major historical journeys and expeditions did not penetrate the mountain barriers.


Alphabetical listing of place names written up in paragraph form. Names researched from historical sources (GLO, survey plats, Geographic Place Names Board, historical texts) as well as from local sources. Considerable time spent on project. Because the exact location of each feature is not given, it is difficult to determine whether or not the feature is within the wilderness because of duplication of names in the wilderness and that portion of the Bitterroot Forest which lies without.


Name origin of Grave Peak

"Origin of Geographic Names—Bitterroot National Forest" 1/14/42 41 pp.

Alphabetical listing according to feature named, origin of name, authority, and recorder. Features are: Archer Mtn., Bailey Mtn., Blodgett Crk., Boulder Crk., Cooper Cr., Cox Cr., Crew Cr., Fitting Cr., Freeman...
"Origin of Geographical Names—Clearwater National Forest."
Alphabetical listing according to feature named, origin of name, authority, and recorder. Because the features do not have legal descriptions, whether or not the features are within the wilderness is unclear.

"Origin of Geographic Names—Lolo National Forest."
3/30/42, 12 pp.
Alphabetical listing according to feature named, origin of name, authority, and recorder. Because the features do no have legal descriptions, whether or not the features are within the wilderness is unclear.

"Origin of Geographic Names—Nezperce National Forest."
3/19/42, 14 pp.
Alphabetical listing according to feature named, origin of name, authority, and recorder. Features included within the wilderness are: Jesse Pass, Oldman Creek, Oldman Lake, Pinchot Creek, Selway, and Schwar Creek, Three Links Creek, and Wylies Peak.

Published Manuscripts/ Histories of National Forests
Cochrell, Albert N. The Nezperce Story. Rhoda and Boyd Crs. (pp.11-13) Space, Ralph. The Clearwater Story. Maude and Lottie Lakes (p.46); Lochsa, Old Man Lake, Rhoda, and McConnell Mtn. (p.53); and Indian Grave Pk. (pp. 11-12) Official Correspondence
Alphabetical listing of names within Montana and Idaho. No source references mentioned. No way of verifying information. Very general. Names of interest: Bitterroot (p.2), Lolo (P. 2), Clearwater (p.3), and Nezperce (p.3.)
(cont'd page four, Bibliography: Place Names)


Origin of Selwai and Lochsa Rivers.

Hanson, P.D. Regional Forester. Letter to Chief. 5/26/54

Origin of Printz Ridge.


Origin of the Selway River.


Contains place names obtained through Than Wilkerson: Chaffin Creek, Boulder Creek, Soda Springs, Watchtower Cr.


Origin of Downing Mtn.

Theime, F.E., Regional Forester. Letter to Forest Supervisor Mr. Simpson, Lolo National Forest, 5/26/30.

Origin of Chute Creek and Hidden Creek Ridge.


Origin of Bass Cr.

Newspapers and Magazines

Monroe, B.K. "Blodgett Canyon Bears Name of Pioneer."

Xerox of clipping in Missoula files; no date or newspaper name.


Origin of the Selwai and Lochsa Rivers.
(con't page five, Bibliography: Place Names)

Part II: Sources which are not filed in the Place Names folder.

Taped Interviews: Personal contacts which Mary Ellen Ackerman made over the summer of 1970

Gilroy, Ed. Origin of Lake Elizabeth.

Hovey, Ralph. Origin of Fenn Lakes, Rhoda Cr., Lakes Lottie and Maud, Parsons Lake, Penny Bluffs.

McDonald, Charley. Origin of Bass Lake, Mill Cr.

McPherson, Don. Origin of features which are now renamed: Indian Cr/Pettibone, Indian Ridge/Pettibone Ridge, Big Creek/Wahoo Creek, Squaw Peak/Wahoo Peak, Florence, Elizabeth, and Lloyd Lakes/Stove, Pipe, and Kettle Lakes, Chimney Lake/Lake Louise.

Monroe, B.K. Origin of Curlee Creek and Peak, Kookooskie and Selway Rivers.


Parsell, Jack. Origin of Fay Creek, Stewart Hot Springs, Three Forks.


Interviews, not taped; by M.E. Ackerman unless otherwise noted.

Boone, Dr. L. Chairman of Geographic Place Names study of the western region. She had very little material for the district within in the wilderness boundary. Located origin of Archer Mtn. and Rhoda Creek.

Oswald, Arnolt. Interview by R.I. Walker at the head of Rhoda Creek. Origin of Kaul Lake, Lottie Lake.

Letters:


Powell Ranger Station Name Origin File:

Hand, Ralph. Bear Mountain origin.

Moore, William. The origin of Army Mule Saddle, Cooperation Creek, Freezecout Creek, Friday Pass, Graves Peak, Kooksookia Meadows, Mocus Point.

Puckett, J.V. Recorded the origin of Dolph Creek, Fox Point, and Shattuck Mtn.

Books:

Defenbach, Idaho, the Place and Its People. p. 245, the identify of Thomas Beall.


Hult, Ruby El. Northwest Disaster. Identifies George A. Blodgett.

University of Idaho- Special Collection - Photographs

Selway, James Sr. Photograph of (no. 3-908a). Back of photograph gives identifying remarks and claim that Selway River is named for.