



## ARIZONA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC AND HISTORIC NAMES

State Capitol  
1938 Addition, Suite 200  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Chair: Dennis Preisler  
Phone: (602) 926-3720  
Fax: (602) 256-7982  
Email: [aznames@lists.lib.az.us](mailto:aznames@lists.lib.az.us)

Internet: <http://www.azlibrary.gov/about/boards-and-commissions/asbghn>

July 18, 2014

Arlethe G. Rios  
Clerk of the Board  
1415 W. Melody Lane, Bldg. G  
Bisbee, AZ 85603

RECEIVED  
COCHISE COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
2014 JUL 24 A 10:11 AM

Regarding: Proposal to correct the names of two canyons and a stock tank in Cochise County, Coronado National Forest (Douglas Ranger District): *North Fork Canyon, Pothole Canyon and Pothole Tank*

Dear Ms. Rios:

The purpose of this letter is to seek a written recommendation from Cochise County on three names proposals before the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names that may be of interest to the residents of Cochise County. The proposal was first submitted to the United States Board on Geographic Names. The U.S. Board has asked the Arizona State Board to act on each proposal.

The Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names has the statutory responsibility for determining the most appropriate names for places in the State of Arizona. To assist the Board in reaching an informed decision on these names proposals, we respectfully request that the Cochise County Board of Supervisors provide its recommendation to either approve or reject each proposal.

The first two proposals are to reverse the names of two valleys in the Douglas Ranger District of Coronado National Forest. The names *North Fork Canyon* and *Pothole Canyon* have been labeled on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps since 1958. The USGS maps show both canyons flowing south into Horseshoe Canyon. North Fork Canyon is the more easterly canyon, less than a mile west of Pothole Peak. Pothole Canyon is the more westerly canyon. Both canyons are in T19S R31E.

Mr. Pete Martinez, U.S. Forest Service Regional Geographic Names Coordinator, USFS District 3 (Arizona and New Mexico) is revising the Douglas Ranger District/Coronado National Forest map. Mr. Martinez believes that the canyon names should be reversed on the new map to reflect longstanding local usage. The U.S. Forest Service has been reversing the canyon names on published maps of Coronado National Forest since the 1990s, and is now making a formal application to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to change the names officially.

Ms. Arlethe D. Rios

July 18, 2014

RE: North Fork Canyon, Pothole Canyon and Pothole Tank name proposals

Pg. 2

Douglas Ranger District staff and other local experts confirm that each canyon bears the other's name and that the names should be swapped to reflect local use. Pothole Canyon should be the eastern most and is associated with Pothole Peak; North Fork Canyon should be the western most (see *Enclosure II – Correspondence between U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Board on Geographic and Historic Names re: input from forest district ranger's office and local ranchers supporting proposed name changes*).

The third proposal involves correcting the spelling of Pot Hole Tank to **Pothole Tank**. The tank is in Section 3, T19S R31E, approximately one mile west of Pothole Peak and on what the U.S. Forest Service is calling Pothole Canyon. Changing Pot Hole (two words) to Pothole (one word) will make consistent the names of three related features – Pothole Peak, Pothole Canyon and Pothole Tank.

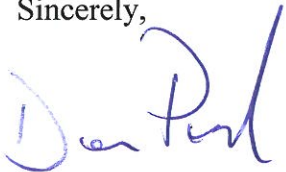
**Pot Hole Tank** first appears on the 1975 Coronado National Forest map. The feature is not shown or named on the USGS Portal Peak 1997 topographic map, but is listed as an official name in the Geographic Names Information System, the federally recognized place name authority in the United States ([geonames.usgs.gov](http://geonames.usgs.gov)).

Please place these proposals on the Board of Supervisors' next agenda for consideration and their recommendation. Please also circulate the enclosed name proposal to those departments that you feel could provide guidance and direction to the Board of Supervisors on this issue. If you have received correspondence from county residents that would assist the decision-making process, the Arizona Board would appreciate receiving a copy for the file.

The Arizona Board considers information provided by the proponent, opponents, and the Board's staff in its deliberations on proposed names. The Board's staff contacts governmental agencies, land owners, interested individuals and the affected counties, and also conducts independent research for background on the historical and current local usage of the existing and proposed name.

The Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names would appreciate a response from the Cochise County Board of Supervisors at its earliest convenience. The Board will consider acting on the **North Fork Canyon, Pothole Canyon and Pothole Tank** proposals during its summer meeting on August 27, 2014. In the event that the Cochise County Board of Supervisors has questions or will require more time to adequately respond to this request, please call me at (602) 926-3720, or Julie Hoff, Board staff at (602) 926-3878. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dennis Preisler, Chair

Enclosures



## ARIZONA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC AND HISTORIC NAMES

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### Enclosures:

- I) Case briefs for North Fork Canyon, Pothole Canyon and Pothole Tank prepared by U.S. Board on Geographic Names staff
- II) Correspondence between U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Board on Geographic Names re: input from forest district ranger's office and local ranchers supporting proposed name changes
- III) Portions of U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Forest Service maps showing North Fork Canyon, Pothole Canyon and Pothole Tank
- IV) Response forms for Cochise County Board of Supervisors

<p>Approved</p> <p>Promulgation authorized Executive Secretary Domestic Geographic Names</p> <hr/>
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UNITED STATES  
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

CASE BRIEF (Domestic)

**North Fork Canyon:** valley; 2.3 mi. long; in Coronado National Forest/Chiricahua Wilderness, heads 3.5 mi. ENE of Jones Peak, 2.6 mi. WSW of Pothole Peak (q.v.) at 31°48'07"N, 109°11'15"W, trends SE to join Horseshoe Canyon; Cochise County, Arizona; Secs 15,10,9&4, T19S, R31E, Gila and Salt River Meridian; 31°46'42"N, 109°09'48"W; USGS map – Portal Peak 1:24,000; Not Pothole Canyon.

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=31.7783688&p\\_longi=-109.1632573](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=31.7783688&p_longi=-109.1632573)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=31.8020676&p\\_longi=-109.1874088](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=31.8020676&p_longi=-109.1874088)

- Proposal: application change to reflect local use
- Map: USGS Portal Peak 1:24,000
- Proponent: Pete Martinez, USFS
- Administrative area: Coronado National Forest/Chiricahua Wilderness
- Previous BGN Action: None
- Names associated with feature:

- GNIS: Pothole Canyon (FID 9692)
- Local Usage: North Fork Canyon (60 + years)
- Published: Pothole Canyon (USGS maps since 1958), North Fork Canyon (USFS 2007; Chiricahua Mountains Hiking Trails, 2014)

Case Summary: This is the first of two proposals to reverse the applications of two names for two valleys. The names North Fork Canyon and Pothole Canyon have been labeled on USGS topographic maps since 1958; however, the U.S. Forest Service Regional Geographic Names Coordinator believes the labels should be reversed, to reflect longstanding local usage. The more westerly of the two valleys should be North Fork Canyon while the name Pothole Canyon should refer to the eastern one. The eastern one heads closer to Pot Hole Peak (a name proposed to be changed to Pothole Peak (q.v.)). Both valleys lie within the Coronado National Forest/Chiricahua Wilderness. According to a local resident, "Pothole Canyon is the rough canyon to the East and North Fork [sic] with the water system (which I installed in the 1980's) is the canyon to the West."

Proposed by: Pete Martinez, USFS  
Submitted by: same  
Prepared by: J. Messenger  
Case ID: 4183  
Reviewed by: M. O'Donnell

Date: 6/5/14  
Date: same  
Date: 6/10/14  
Quarterly Review List: 417  
Date: 6/13/14

I,

<p>Approved</p> <p>Promulgation authorized Executive Secretary Domestic Geographic Names</p> <hr/>
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**UNITED STATES  
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**

**CASE BRIEF (Domestic)**

**Pothole Canyon:** valley; 3.5 mi. long; heads in Coronado National Forest/Chiricahua Wilderness, 0.8 mi. N of Pot Hole Peak at 31°49'09"N, 109°08'48"W, trends S to join Horseshoe Canyon; Cochise County, Arizona; Secs 14,11,10,3&2, T19S, R31E and Sec 35, T18S, R31E, Gila and Salt River Meridian; 31°46'53"N, 109°08'51"W; USGS map – Portal Peak 1:24,000; Not: North Fork Canyon.

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=31.7813459&p\\_longi=-109.1475757](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=31.7813459&p_longi=-109.1475757)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=31.819113&p\\_longi=-109.1466835](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=31.819113&p_longi=-109.1466835)

Proposal: application change to reflect local use

Map: USGS Portal Peak 1:24,000

Proponent: Pete Martinez, USFS

Administrative area: Coronado National Forest/Chiricahua Wilderness

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: North Fork Canyon (FID 8719)

Local Usage: Pothole Canyon (60+ years)

Published: North Fork Canyon (USGS since 1958), North Fork Canyon – in part (USGS 1917, 1919), Pothole Canyon (USGS 1958; USFS 1994, 2007; Northern Chiricahua Mountains, 1995; Chiricahua Mountains Hiking Trails, 2014)

Case Summary: This 3.5-mile-long valley heads in the Chiricahua Wilderness in Coronado National Forest; although it has been named North Fork Canyon on USGS maps since 1917, the proposal is to switch the name with that of Pothole Canyon.

Two USGS 1:125,000-scale topographic maps published in 1917 and 1919 labeled the source of the valley on the western of the two branches, but all later maps indicate that the eastern branch is the correct branch to carry the name.

Proposed by: Pete Martinez, USFS  
Submitted by: same  
Prepared by: J. Messenger  
Case ID: 4182  
Reviewed by: M. O'Donnell

Date: 6/5/14  
Date: same  
Date: 6/10/14  
Quarterly Review List: 417  
Date: 6/13/14

Approved

Promulgation authorized  
Executive Secretary  
Domestic Geographic Names

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UNITED STATES  
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

CASE BRIEF (Domestic)

**Pothole Tank:** reservoir; in Coronado National Forest/Chiricahua Wilderness, 7.5 mi. SSW of Portal; Cochise County, Arizona; Sec 3, T19S, R31E, Gila and Salt River Meridian; 31°48'12"N, 109°09'32"W; USGS map – Portal Peak 1:24,000; Not: Pot Hole, Pot Hole Tank.  
[http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=31.8034283&p\\_longi=-109.1589493&fid=22180](http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=31.8034283&p_longi=-109.1589493&fid=22180)

- Proposal: spelling change to reflect local use
- Map: USGS Portal Peak 1:24,000
- Proponent: Pete Martinez, USFS
- Administrative area: Coronado National Forest/Chiricahua Wilderness
- Previous BGN Action: None
- Names associated with feature:
  - GNIS: Pot Hole Tank (FID 22180)
  - Local Usage: Pothole Tank (USFS personnel)
  - Published: Pot Hole (USFS 1986), Pot Hole Tank (USFS 1975)

Case Summary: The name of this small reservoir is proposed to be changed from Pot Hole Tank to Pothole Tank to recognize local use and to be consistent with the proposed change to Pothole Peak and Pothole Canyon. The reservoir is located in the valley currently named North Fork Canyon but which is proposed to be renamed to Pothole Canyon. The reservoir does not appear on any USGS maps nor is it visible on current imagery, but it has been labeled on USFS maps as both Pot Hole Tank (1975) and Pot Hole (1986).

Proposed by: Pete Martinez, USFS  
Submitted by: same  
Prepared by: J. Messenger  
Case ID: 4184  
Reviewed by: M. O'Donnell

Date: 6/5/14  
Date: same  
Date: 6/10/14  
Quarterly Review:  
Date: 6/13/14

From: Runyon, Jennifer [mailto:jrunyon@usgs.gov]  
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 4:08 PM  
To: Martinez, Pete A -FS; Maria McCormick  
Cc: Kanalley, Betsy -FS

Subject: Re: Submitting a Request for a Name Change  
Hi Pete,

Thanks for sending along the details. I think this one's going to need a full BGN review. The two names as listed currently in GNIS and on your FS Topo have been labeled on USGS topos since the 1958 edition of the 15-minute map, and North Fork Canyon for the more easterly one goes back to the 1917 30-minute map (although it seems the name goes up the westerly branch not the easterly one that heads toward Pot Hole Peak). The westerly valley is shown but with no label.

Having said that, I see that Pot Hole Dam is located along what we call North Fork Canyon, and Pot Hole Peak is near the headwater (more on those names in a moment), so the evidence to switch the names is compelling. And if the Forest Service folks on the ground and the oldtimers support the change, all the better.

I don't know how familiar you are with the Arizona State Board, but I don't foresee a decision from them for several months. They will contact Cochise County, and we will consult the appropriate tribes. We'll also ask for an official recommendation from Betsy. I'm not sure I want to ask, but what's the drop dead date for the Forest map to go to press?

Jenny

On Mon, Jun 2, 2014 at 4:32 PM, Martinez, Pete A -FS  
<petemartinez@fs.fed.us> wrote:

Jenny,

While doing our last visitor map review on the Coronado National Forest we were informed of a possible issue with two canyons on the forest being mislabeled. They are Pothole Canyon (GNISID: 9692) and North Fork Canyon (GNISID: 8719). Both of these features are located on the Portal Peak Quad. Both are located in Cochise County, Arizona.

According to Douglas Ranger District staff, and local experts, each currently bears the other's name, and the names should be swapped to reflect local use. Pothole Canyon should be the easternmost, closest to Pothole Peak, and North Fork Canyon should be the westernmost. I attached a copy of the Portal Peak Quad taken from the Forest Service FS Topo service, which shows the current, incorrect labeling as asserted by the forest.

I asked for corroboration from 3 independent sources (Preferably outside the agency), which the district provided, along with contact information (See Below).

This information is in conflict with all maps we have of the area except for the Douglas Ranger District Forest Visitor Map dated 1995 (revised 2007) and the Northern Chiricahua Mountains map, dated 1995.

Below is an excerpt from my correspondence with the Coronado National Forest and Douglas Ranger District. District staff initially brought this to our attention and should also be considered local experts.

Please let me know if there is anything else you need from my end.

On May 19, 2014 8:07 AM, "Harris, Joseph E -FS" [josephharris@fs.fed.us](mailto:josephharris@fs.fed.us) wrote:

Stan, Edward, Bill,

On all of our maps, including the USGS 7.5 minute topographic maps, North Fork Canyon and Pothole Canyon in the Horseshoe area of the Chiricahuas have been mislabeled. The western-most canyon, the one with the water system in it and the large concrete dam, has always been known "on the ground" as North Fork. The more eastern, rough canyon running north as soon as you cross the Lower Horseshoe/Middle Horseshoe pasture fence has been known as Pothole Canyon. Would you all agree that this is the case? If not, do you have any additional information that would help us out?

Thank you in advance for your response. Give me a call if you have any questions.

Joseph E. Harris  
Range and Watershed Staff Officer  
Douglas Ranger District – Coronado N.F.  
1192 W. Saddleview Rd.  
Douglas, AZ 85607  
(520) 364-6821

Quoted text below from three different local ranchers in the area of concern when I asked them about the names of Pothole and North Fork Canyons:

"Mr. Harris,

I have been familiar with the canyons in question for 60+ years. Back in the 1950's I helped gather cattle for the Darnell's, they had the Horseshoe

Allotment at that time. Pothole Canyon is the rough canyon to the East and North Fork with the water system, (which I installed in the 1980's) is the canyon to the West.

Elbrock, Edward  
elbrock@vtc.net  
100 Elbrock Ranch Rd.  
Animas, NM 88020  
575-548-2270 Home  
575-548-2429 Office  
575-538-1812 Cell  
Rancher, Contractor  
60+ (1950's)

I was born in 1940 and have lived in the area all my life."

"Joe,

The 15 years I have been in the area, this is the way these canyons are described.

Pothole > 1st canyon going North after passing through the swing gate between Lower and Middle Horseshoe pastures, as you travel west into Horseshoe.

North Fork > After passing the Large Steel Rim storage in Middle Horseshoe going west, there is a fork in the road. The road/trail leading North takes you to the division fence into North Fork Canyon. On the trail, for landmarks, there is a water storage unit and trough to the north of the trail and as you pass on you will come to another water storage that was fed by a pipeline from the North Fork dam, further up the canyon.

For easy clarification, contact Louis Pope (catchacat@vtc.net) that drew up the Wilderness boundries. Also, Jeff Gee of the Portal Rescue team at (520) 558-2458 - cbwr@vtrc.net

Stanley Smith  
Manager  
Shiloh Ranches LLC  
PO Box 72  
Rodeo, NM  
88056

Stanley Smith  
4up4downcattle@gmail.com  
(520) 419-1805"

When responding to the email I sent, Bill Cloudt wrote....

"Yes, that is what I have known them as for the last 60 years.  
Bill"

Last Name: Cloudt

First Name: William

Email: wcloudt@gmail.com

Physical Address: PO Box 98 Rodeo, New Mexico 88056

Phone Number: 520-558-2327

Occupation: Rancher

Years of Personal Knowledge of Proposed Name: 40+

From: Runyon, Jennifer [mailto:jrunyon@usgs.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 8:22 AM  
To: Martinez, Pete A -FS  
Cc: Kanalley, Betsy -FS  
Subject: Re: Submitting a Request for a Name Change

Hi Pete, it's great to hear from you. We sure missed you at COGNA. It was a small group but still good to see folks again. I got a chance to catch up with Dan White and Mark Flannery.

It's totally up to you. If they are full-fledged BGN proposals, i.e. you're changing natural feature names and the county and State Board need to weigh in, use the online form (or we can provide the old paper DGNR). But if they are administrative (man-made) features, especially ones managed by the Forest Service, a simple email to me or Maria is fine. We'll just fix GNIS. If it's somewhere in between, i.e. the name in GNIS doesn't match the name on, say, a USGS topo or FVM, and you can document that it's wrong, you can email those to me as well and we can probably just fix them. Sometimes a "simple" fix has to become a BGN case, but your email would be enough to start the process.

Since I'm monitoring the BGNEXEC dropbox now anyway, either way it'll land on my desk. If you want to just send me the details, we can decide the best course of action. Bottom line, we don't require the online form.

Make sense?

Thanks,  
Jenny  
BGN research staff  
(703) 648-4550

On Wed, May 28, 2014 at 9:59 AM, Martinez, Pete A -FS  
<petemartinez@fs.fed.us> wrote:

Jenny,

I want to submit a request to change the names of two features. Do I do that through the online public form, or is there some Forest Service-specific way I should do it. I haven't had to do this since the DGNR days.

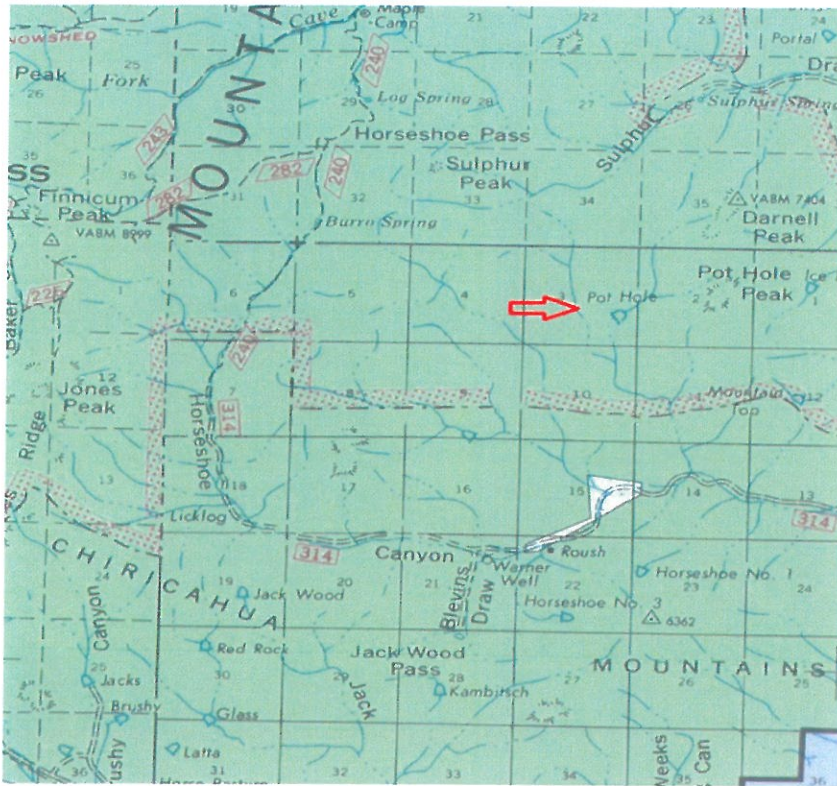
This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.



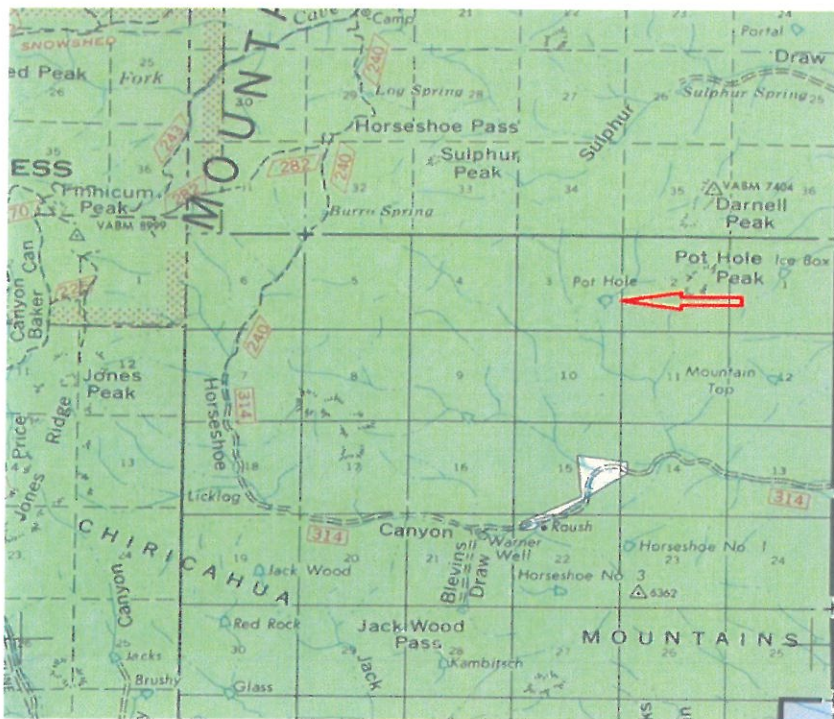
U.S. Geological Survey  
**Chiricahua 30'** topographic map. Surveyed 1917.  
Map shows "incorrect" placement of North Fork Canyon. Pothole Canyon not labeled.



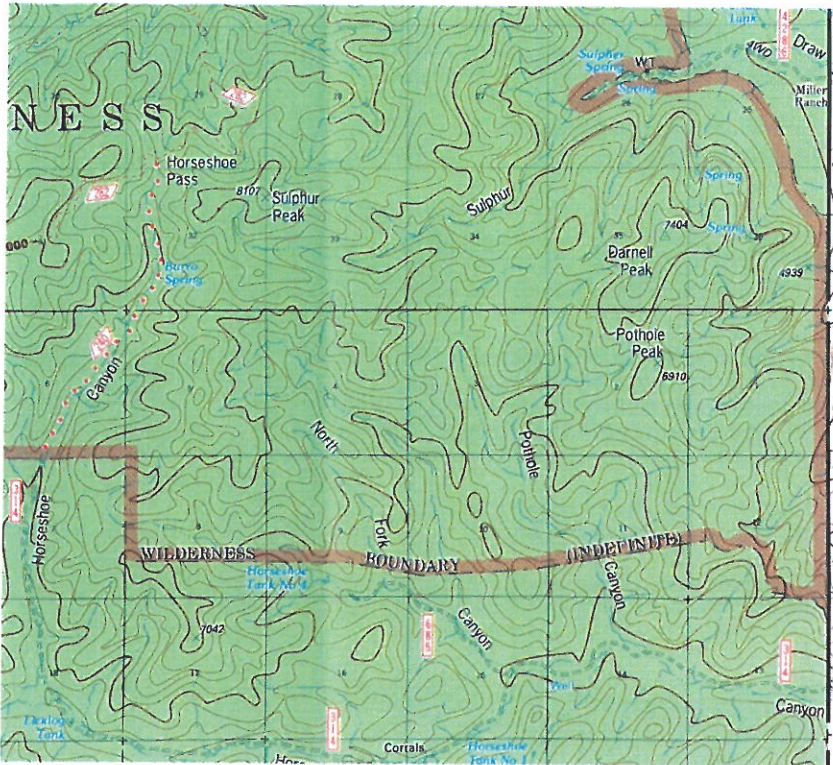
U.S. Geological Survey  
**Portal Peak 7.5'** topo map, 1997.  
Map shows North Fork Canyon and Pothole Canyon labeled "incorrectly".



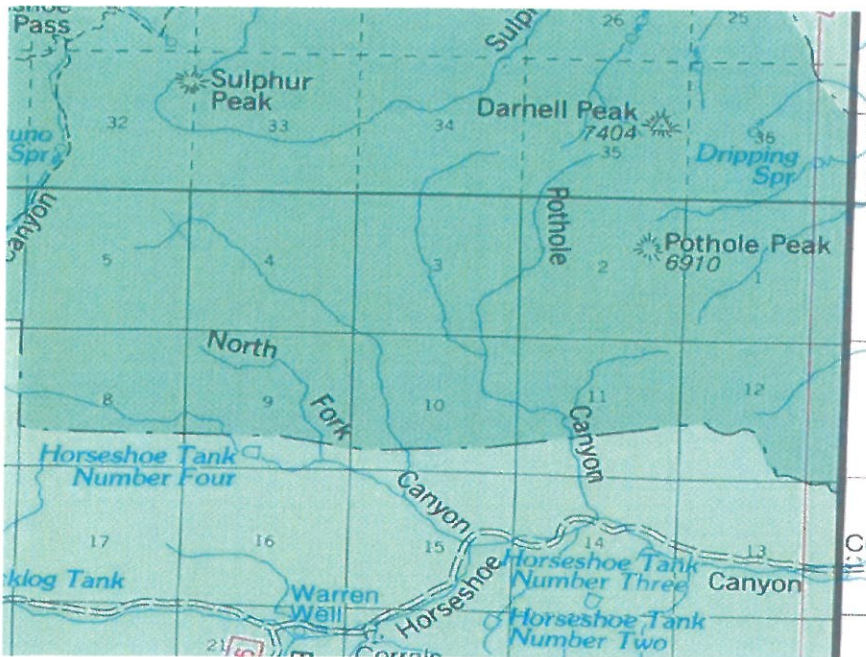
Coronado NF, Douglas RD 1975 showing Pot Hole tank.



Coronado NF, Douglas RD 1980 showing Pot Hole tank.



Coronado NF, Douglas RD 1995 showing “correct” placement of Pothole Canyon and North Fork Canyon. Pothole Tank not shown.



Coronado NF, Douglas RD 2007 showing “correct” placement of Pothole Canyon and North Fork Canyon. Pothole Tank not shown.

# PROPOSED NAME CHANGE RECOMMENDATION

## **North Fork Canyon** *(name change from Pothole Canyon)*

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This is to notify the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names that

**Cochise County Board of Supervisors**

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Recommends that the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names:

- Approve the Proposed Name
- Reject the Proposed Name
- Take Action as specified In Comments
- Render a Decision Without Our Recommendation

The following factors contribute to this recommendation:

Official making recommendation on behalf of the governmental entity:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

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Please fax this signed recommendation to:

Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names  
State Capitol, 1938 Addition, Room 200  
1700 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
FAX: (602) 256-7982

# PROPOSED NAME CHANGE RECOMMENDATION

## ***Pothole Canyon*** *(name change from North Fork Canyon)*

---

This is to notify the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names that

**Cochise County Board of Supervisors**

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Recommends that the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names:

- Approve the Proposed Name
- Reject the Proposed Name
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\_\_\_\_\_

(Title)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_

(Date)

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Please fax this signed recommendation to:

Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names  
State Capitol, 1938 Addition, Room 200  
1700 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
FAX: (602) 256-7982

# PROPOSED NAME CHANGE RECOMMENDATION

## ***Pothole Tank***

*(spelling change from Pot Hole Tank)*

This is to notify the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names that

**Cochise County Board of Supervisors**

Recommends that the Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names:

- Approve the Proposed Name
- Reject the Proposed Name
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The following factors contribute to this recommendation:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Printed Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Please fax this signed recommendation to:

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1700 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
FAX: (602) 256-7982