

Approved

Promulgation authorized
Executive Secretary
Domestic Geographic Names

UNITED STATES
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

CASE BRIEF (Domestic)

Doubtful Peak: summit; elevation 6,507 ft.; on Bureau of Land Management land / Peloncillo Mountains Wilderness, the highest point in the Arizona part of the Peloncillo Mountains, 2.9 mi. NNW of Steins Peak; named in association with the adjacent Little Doubtful Canyon and the benchmark on the summit named “Doubtful”; Secs 23&22, T12S, R32E, Gila and Salt River Meridian; Cochise County, Arizona; 32°22’30”N, 109°03’24”W; USGS map – Doubtful Canyon 1:24,000; Not: North Peloncillo High Point, Peloncillo Mountain, Peloncillo Peak.

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=32.374978&p_longi=-109.056709

Proposal: new name for unnamed feature

Map: USGS Doubtful Canyon 1:24,000

Proponent: H. Bates Estabrooks

Administrative area: Bureau of Land Management / Peloncillo Mountains Wilderness

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: No record

Local Usage: None found

Published: North Peloncillo High Point (Peakbagger website, 2020); Peloncillo Mountain (SummitPost website, 2020); Peloncillo Peak (USGS Water-Supply Paper 422, 1918)

Case Summary: The new name Doubtful Peak is proposed for an unnamed 6,507-foot summit in the Peloncillo Mountains in Cochise County. The summit is within the Bureau of Land Management’s Peloncillo Mountains Wilderness and is the highest summit in the Arizona part of the Peloncillo Mountains (the highest point of the entire range is in New Mexico). The proposed name references both the benchmark named “Doubtful” on the summit and the adjacent Little Doubtful Canyon.

When asked to address the Wilderness Area Names Policy, the proponent noted that the benchmark named “Doubtful” (placed in 1907) predates the designation of the wilderness (1989), adding “I would even go so far as to suggest that in 1907 the peak was named/recognized as ‘Doubtful.’ This gives my proposal to officially name it ‘Doubtful Peak’ a root in local history.”

The proponent shared an email thread from 2014 in which he asked USGS about the benchmark and was told “The names of USGS benchmarks was [sic] pretty much at the whimsy of the person or group putting them in.”

The SummitPost website applies the unofficial names Peloncillo Mountain and North Peloncillo High Point to the peak in question.

Proposed by: H. Bates Estabrooks

Submitted by: same

Prepared by: M. O’Donnell

Case ID: 5405

Reviewed by: J.Runyon

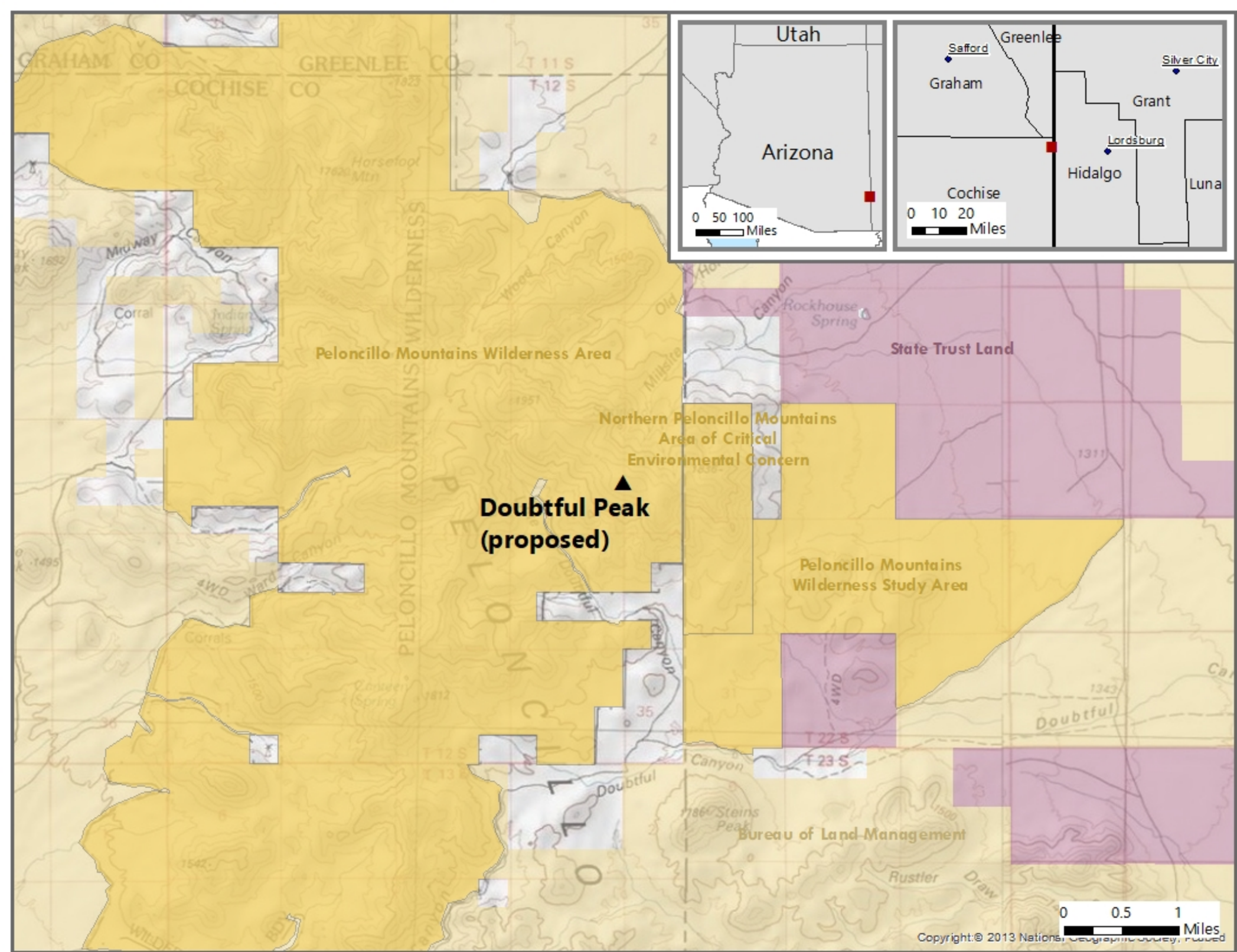
Date: 9/11/20

Date: same

Date: 9/30/20

Quarterly Review List: 441

Date: 10/2/20



Feature Naming Proposal to The Board of Geographic Names

Proposed by: H. Bates Estabrooks wgpu@hotmail.com

September, 2020

In the San Simon Precinct of District 3 of Cochise County, AZ is a peak which, at 6,507 ft., is the highest peak in the Peloncillo Mts in Arizona, and is not presently given an official name:

<https://www.peakbagger.com/peak.aspx?pid=17274>

<https://listsofjohn.com/peak/17467>

<https://caltopo.com/map.html#ll=32.375,-109.0568&z=14&b=t&o=r&n=0.25>

Its current USGS benchmark is labeled simply “C E Uncertain”:



I would propose naming this mountain “Doubtful Peak” on the following basis.

First, the mountain is bracketed on the southeast and west by Doubtful Canyon and Little Doubtful Canyon, respectively. Naming this mountain “Doubtful Peak” gives it a name consistent with the names of the nearby environs.

Second, I have found that there is some location-name precedent for my proposal. Let me share this.

Several years ago, I was puzzled by the meaning of the inscription on the benchmark: "C E Uncertain". I wondered what it meant. I contacted the U S Geological Survey and had the following email exchange:

Re: Request for Explanation of Terms

Tue,
Dec 2,
2014,
6:14 PM

Bates E. <wgpu239@gmail.com>

to Steve, GS-AK

Steve and Ken,

Thank you both VERY much for all the effort you put into researching my question. I find this history fascinating and the explanation certainly credible. Thank you again.

Regards,

Bates Estabrooks

On Dec 2, 2014 5:31 PM, "Reiter, Steve" <snreiter@usgs.gov> wrote:

>

> Greetings Bates: I examined all the material we've got archived for that mark, but none of it explains the meaning of "C E Uncertain". So I contacted a retired colleague who served as chief of our geodetic division when he was employed here. Here's a summary of our exchange:

>

> The disc you're asking about was established close to a triangulation station named "Doubtful" (its name was derived from nearby Doubtful Canyon). Instead of a brass or aluminum disc, the triangulation station was marked with an "X" that was etched into a rock. Then a lot of rocks were piled atop the "X" to form a cairn. The distance and angle between the "X" and the disc were precisely measured and the result is termed an "eccentric"; in case you're wondering, the distance was 7.20 feet and the angle was 343 degrees - 20 minutes. Both the disc and the "X" were established by a surveying party in 1907. The disc DID NOT bear the stamping "C E Uncertain".

>

> Fast-forward to 1958 and now another survey team is working in the area. They found the disc, but the cairn had disappeared and the triangulation station (the "X") could not be found. In light of this development, the surveying team either stamped into the nearby disc "1958 C E Uncertain" or they replaced it with a new disc bearing this stamping. If true, this abbreviation stands for "Cairn Eccentric Uncertain".

>

> I was hoping we'd have documentation from the 1958 field work, but no luck.

>

> It is important that you treat this as speculation and not as official information. It's entirely possible "C E Uncertain" stands for something entirely different and unknown to us.

>

> On Tue, Nov 25, 2014 at 5:26 PM, ESIC, GS-AK <askusgs@usgs.gov> wrote:

>>
>> OK then, I'll pass this along to our people in Denver who handle benchmark info. Perhaps the description will give a hint at what the C.E. means.
>>
>> Ken Dixon
>> USGS Office of Communications & Publishing
>> Science Information Services - Anchorage, Alaska
>> Follow @USGS on Twitter and "Like" us on FaceBook!
>> Check out other USGS Social Media sites
>>
>> HOW DID WE DO? Please answer our two questions.
>>
>>
>>
>> On Tue, Nov 25, 2014 at 3:07 PM, Bates E. <wgpu239@gmail.com> wrote:
>>>
>>> Ken,
>>>
>>> Here's a link to a photo of the benchmark:
>>>
>>> <http://www.summitpost.org/peloncillo-mountain-az-benchmark/893093>
>>>
>>> Also, I've attached the photo from that site. It is a USGS benchmark.
>>>
>>> Thanks for your help.
>>>
>>> Bates Estabrooks
>>>
>>> On Tue, Nov 25, 2014 at 6:32 PM, ESIC, GS-AK <askusgs@usgs.gov> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> Hello,
>>>>
>>>> The names of USGS benchmarks was pretty much at the whimsy of the person or group putting them in. However, this may not even be a USGS benchmark. It is not showing up on the NGS Datasheets. Do you have a photograph? If so, or if you have any other information that will assist, we can pass this along to our Denver office.
>>>>
>>>> Good day,
>>>>
>>>> Ken Dixon
>>>> USGS Office of Communications & Publishing
>>>> Science Information Services - Anchorage, Alaska
>>>> Follow @USGS on Twitter and "Like" us on FaceBook!
>>>> Check out other USGS Social Media sites
>>>>
>>>> HOW DID WE DO? Please answer our two questions.
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> On Tue, Nov 25, 2014 at 9:23 AM, <wgpu239@gmail.com> wrote:
>>>>>
>>>>> Transaction=GSFRB6XV [25NOV2014 18:23:07UTC]

>>>> Customer email: wgpu239@gmail.com
>>>> Customer: Bates Estabrooks
>>>> Subject: Request for Explanation of Terms
>>>> Originating page: <http://www.usgs.gov/>
>>>> Primary response: askusgs@usgs.gov
>>>> Tracking
info: tmplt=2|webchat=yes|time=UTC18:19|time=UTC18:23|recipient=askusgs@usgs.gov|sender=wgpu239@gmail.com

>>>>
>>>> If you are experiencing problems with this email application, please send your feedback to GSAnswers_Help@usgs.gov

>>>> =====
>>>>

>>>> Greetings. I was researching the name of a peak in the Peloncillo Mts. of AZ, located at 32.375, -109.0557. The USGS benchmark dated 1958 is labelled "C. E. Uncertain." Can you tell me what "C. E." is an abbreviation for?

>>>>
>>>> Thanks very much.

>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>

> --
> Steve Reiter (Part-time employee in office on MON-TUE-WED)
> USGS Office of Communications
> Mail Stop 150 - Box 25046
> Denver Federal Center, BLDG 810
> Denver, CO 80225
> Voice: 303-202-4168
> Email: snreiter@usgs.gov

So, as far back as 1907, there was a Geological Survey Triangulation Station near that spot, and it was **named “Doubtful”! I would even go so far as to suggest that in 1907 the peak was named/recognized as “Doubtful”**. This gives my proposal to officially name it “Doubtful Peak”, a root in local history.

I have also provided this information (edited) to Ms. Peggy Judd, Cochise County Supervisor. I am awaiting her response.

C.E. Uncertain Benchmark AZ ?

[Datasheet](#)

[Add to Your Completed List](#)

Elevation ?: 6,540'

AZ Rank ?: 1180

AZ Prominence Rank ?: 55

County ?: Cochise

Quad ?: Doubtful Canyon

Coords ?: 32.3750°N, 109.0568°W Notice

Rise ?: 2,213'

Saddle ?: 4,327'

Parent Lineage

Line Parent ?: Gray Mountain

Proximate Parent ?: Wood Mountain

Isolation ?: 23.88 miles

Peloncillo Mountains Wilderness

Highpoint

YDS Class ?: 2 [Discussion](#) [Disclaimer](#)

[Weather Link](#)

[Snow Depth](#)

[CalTopo](#)

Trip Reports:

[Submit a Trip Report](#)

[Report 1](#)

[Report 2](#)

[Report 3](#)

Links: [peakbagger.com](#)

Ascents: ?

28 members have reported ascents...

[log in to view ascents](#)



Click on map to view full-screen map

Images:



Desert Mountaineer
07-06-2018



John Kirk
03-24-2016



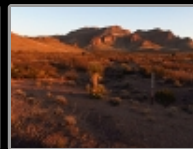
John Kirk
03-24-2016



John Kirk
03-24-2016



John Kirk
03-24-2016



John Kirk
03-24-2016



ScottSurgent
03-10-2009

[Submit another image for this peak](#)

Click on ? icons for info/definitions

[Home Index](#)

The NGS Data Sheet

See file [dsdata.pdf](#) for more information about the datasheet.

PROGRAM = datasheet95, VERSION = 8.12.5.10

Starting Datasheet Retrieval...

1 National Geodetic Survey, Retrieval Date = SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

CY1131 *****

CY1131 DESIGNATION - DOUBTFUL

CY1131 PID - CY1131

CY1131 STATE/COUNTY- AZ/COCHISE

CY1131 COUNTRY - US

CY1131 USGS QUAD - DOUBTFUL CANYON (2018)

CY1131

CY1131 *CURRENT SURVEY CONTROL

CY1131

CY1131* NAD 83(1992) POSITION- 32 22 29.61825(N) 109 03 24.25669(W) ADJUSTED

CY1131* [NAVD 88](#) ORTHO HEIGHT - 1987.8 (meters) 6522. (feet) VERTCON

CY1131

CY1131 GEOID HEIGHT - -26.109 (meters) GEOID18

CY1131 LAPLACE CORR - -0.04 (seconds) DEFLEC18

CY1131 HORZ ORDER - THIRD

CY1131

CY1131.The horizontal coordinates were established by classical geodetic methods

CY1131.and adjusted by the National Geodetic Survey in December 1993.

CY1131.

CY1131.The NAVD 88 height was computed by applying the VERTCON shift value to

CY1131.the NGVD 29 height (displayed under SUPERSEDED SURVEY CONTROL.)

CY1131

CY1131.Significant digits in the geoid height do not necessarily reflect accuracy.

CY1131.GEOID18 height accuracy estimate available [here](#).

CY1131

CY1131.Click [photographs](#) - Photos may exist for this station.

CY1131

CY1131.The Laplace correction was computed from DEFLEC18 derived deflections.

CY1131

CY1131. The following values were computed from the NAD 83(1992) position.

CY1131

CY1131;		North	East	Units	Scale	Factor	Converg.
CY1131;SPC AZ E	-	152,976.624	317,804.022	MT	1.00003448	+0 35	39.7
CY1131;SPC AZ E	-	501,891.81	1,042,664.11	iFT	1.00003448	+0 35	39.7
CY1131;UTM 12	-	3,583,651.515	682,815.776	MT	1.00001216	+1 02	27.0

CY1131

CY1131! - Elev Factor x Scale Factor = Combined Factor

CY1131!SPC AZ E - 0.99969209 x 1.00003448 = 0.99972656

CY1131!UTM 12 - 0.99969209 x 1.00001216 = 0.99970424

CY1131

CY1131: Primary Azimuth Mark

CY1131:SPC AZ E - POSITIVE 306 04 10.2

CY1131:UTM 12 - POSITIVE 305 37 22.9

CY1131

CY1131_U.S. NATIONAL GRID SPATIAL ADDRESS: 12SXA8281583651(NAD 83)

CY1131

CY1131	PID	Reference Object	Distance	Geod. Az
CY1131				ddmmss.s
CY1131	CY1130	POSITIVE	APPROX. 2.0 KM	3063949.9

CY1131

CY1131 SUPERSEDED SURVEY CONTROL

CY1131
 CY1131 NAD 83(1992)- 32 22 29.61815(N) 109 03 24.25655(W) AD() 3
 CY1131 NAD 83(1986)- 32 22 29.61369(N) 109 03 24.25487(W) AD() 3
 CY1131 NAD 27 - 32 22 29.32913(N) 109 03 22.05013(W) AD() 3
 CY1131 NGVD 29 (07/19/86) 1987.0 (m) 6519. (f) VERT ANG

CY1131

CY1131.Superseded values are not recommended for survey control.

CY1131

CY1131.NGS no longer adjusts projects to the NAD 27 or NGVD 29 datums.

CY1131.See file [dsdata.pdf](#) to determine how the superseded data were derived.

CY1131

CY1131_MARKER: X = CHISELED CROSS

CY1131_SETTING: 66 = SET IN ROCK OUTCROP

CY1131_MARK LOGO: USGS

CY1131_STABILITY: A = MOST RELIABLE AND EXPECTED TO HOLD

CY1131+STABILITY: POSITION/ELEVATION WELL

CY1131

CY1131	HISTORY	- Date	Condition	Report By
CY1131	HISTORY	- UNK	MONUMENTED	USGS
CY1131	HISTORY	- 1948	GOOD	USGS
CY1131	HISTORY	- 20190119	GOOD	GEOCAC

CY1131

CY1131 STATION DESCRIPTION

CY1131

CY1131'DESCRIBED BY US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 1948

CY1131'LOCATED ABOUT 12 MI. (AIRLINE) NE. OF SAN SIMON, ON THE HIGHEST POINT

CY1131'OF THE HORSESHOE MOUNTAINS, ON THE S. SIDE OF DOUBTFUL CANYON, ABOUT

CY1131'3.0 MI. S. OF T. R. PEARSONS HORSESHOE RANCH, WHICH IS THE NEAREST

CY1131'WATER, 7.0 MI. S. OF SUMMIT STATION ON THE ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO

CY1131'RAILWAY AND 12.0 MI. NW. OF STEINS PASS STATION ON THE SOUTHERN

CY1131'PACIFIC RAILROAD. THE BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA

CY1131'PASSES OVER THE MOUNTAINS SOMEWHERE NEAR THE STATION.

CY1131'

CY1131'STATION MARK--CROSS CUT IN SOLID ROCK, UNDER ROCK CAIRN.

CY1131'

CY1131'REFERENCE MARK--TABLET, STAMPED ---6507---, CEMENTED IN SOLID ROCK,

CY1131'7.20 FT. FROM STATION MARK, S 16 DEG 40 MIN E.

CY1131

CY1131 STATION RECOVERY (2019)

CY1131

CY1131'RECOVERY NOTE BY GEOCACHING 2019 (DG)

CY1131'REFERENCE MARK STAMPED 'C.E. UNCERTAIN' 6507 1958.

*** retrieval complete.

Elapsed Time = 00:00:01