Domestic Geographic Name Report

Action Requested:

☑ Proposed New Name
☐ Application Change
☐ Name Change
☐ Other

Recommended Name: Prowell Springs
State: Oregon
County: Deschutes
Administrative Area: City of Bend municipal watershed within Deschutes National Forest (Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District)

Specific Area Covered

☐ Mouth
☑ End
☐ Center

Latitude: \(0^\circ 44' 92.264'' \text{ N}\)
Longitude: \(0^\circ 121' 37.675'' \text{ W}\)

☐ Heading
☐ End

Latitude: \(0^\circ 44' 02.250'' \text{ N}\)
Longitude: \(0^\circ 121' 37.964'' \text{ W}\)

Section(s): 3 (SE 1/4 corner)  
Township(s): 28 South  
Range(s): 09 East  
Meridian: Williams
**Elevation** 6320

- Feet
- Meters

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**Type of Feature** (stream, mountain, populated place, etc.):

**Is the feature identified (including other names) in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)?**

- Yes
- No
- Unknown

**If yes, please indicate how it is listed (include name and GNIS feature ID number):** No name; see Topo

**Description of Feature** (physical shape, length, width, direction of flow, etc.):

Springs. Start: - 1628' at bearing N29°47'12"W from the SE ¼ Corner of Section 3, Elev. - 6339' (1935 meters). Flow direction SW.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maps and Other Sources Using Recommended Name (include scale and date)</th>
<th>Other Names (variants)</th>
<th>Maps and Other Sources Using Other Names or Applications (include scale and date)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Bend, City of Bend Watershed, 2013</td>
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<td>None known; just &quot;spring&quot;</td>
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</table>

**Name Information** (such as origin, meaning of the recommended name, historical significance, biographical data (if commemorative), nature of usage or application, or any other pertinent information):

Tribute to Roger Prowell, long-time resident of Bend, Oregon, 24 year employee of City of Bend Water Division whose career focused on water quality and watershed protection of the municipal watershed, including these springs. Please see supportive documentation.

**Is the recommended name in local usage?**

- Yes
- No

**If yes, for approximately how many years?** Since 2013

**Is there local opposition to, or conflict, with the recommended name (as located)?** None known.
For proposed new name, please provide evidence that feature is unnamed:
See attached maps, GNIS Search Results.

Additional information: See attached maps, photographs of springs, photographs of Roger Prowell, letters of support.

Submitted By: Paul Rheault
Company or Agency: City of Bend
Title: Public Works Director
Address (City, State, and ZIPCode): 62975 Boyd Acres Road, Bend, OR 97701
Telephone: 541-317-3000
Date:

Copy Prepared By (if other than above): Wendy Edde
Company or Agency: City of Bend
Title: Stormwater Program Manager
Address (City, State, and ZIPCode): 575 NE 15th Street, Bend, OR 97701
Phone (day): 541-317-3018
Date: July 27, 2013

Authority for Recommended Name: see attached.
Mailing Address:
Telephone:
Occupation:
Years in Area:

Authority for Recommended Name: see attached.
Mailing Address:
Telephone:
Occupation:
Years in Area:

Authority for Recommended Name: see attached.
Mailing Address:
Telephone:
Occupation:
Years in Area:
Attachment A
Location and Feature Identification Information
Executive Summary

Bridge Creek Watershed provides, on the average over the past three years, about 50% of the City of Bend's drinking water supplies. The percentage of water from this source varies from year to year depending on weather, snow pack, maintenance activities, spring storm events and community demands. The actual drainage boundary of the watershed is 3200 acres while the designated legal boundary is 7700 acres. The Bridge Creek watershed is an unfiltered source that complies with all state and federal regulations for source water quality, treatment techniques and source water monitoring.

Bridge Creek Watershed was established in 1926 with the Department of Agriculture, Deschutes National Forest. Prior to the Bridge Creek Watershed, the community of Bend took its drinking water directly from the Deschutes River. Bridge Creek Watershed was selected to serve as the source of community water supply when Deschutes River water became unacceptable due to reservoir construction activities and large-scale logging and milling operations established in the upper Basin.

In addition to the 1926 document, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in 1991 with the Deschutes National Forest that describes management of the watershed will be in an open and communication driven process for maintaining water quality over time. Annual watershed inspections are conducted every September with City and Deschutes National Forest staff to evaluate forest health, fire protection, control of human activity and projects for improving water quality. City ordinances are in place to provide another level of protection within the watershed boundaries.

The entire watershed, including the intake structure and caretaker dwelling is 100% owned by the Deschutes National Forest and is administered by the Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District. Bridge Creek Watershed is noted throughout the Northwest as providing very high quality water and is a source of community pride.

Because of the stringent protections afforded by various levels of legal and administrative actions there are no anthropogenic sources of microbial contaminants, inorganic chemicals, volatile organic chemicals or synthetic organic chemicals in the Bridge Creek Watershed.
The only contaminants of concern for the Bridge Creek source are naturally occurring sources of microbial contaminants such as *Giardia lamblia*, *Cryptosporidium*, fecal coliform bacteria and total coliform bacteria. These organisms are found in virtually all freshwater ecosystems and are present in the Bridge Creek supply. Sources of *Giardia* cysts and fecal coliforms bacterial in the Bridge Creek watershed are generally limited to warm blooded wildlife species such as deer, elk, cougar, coyote, bobcat and black bear. Sources of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts include most mammalian wildlife species and several bird species. The Deschutes National Forest Service and the City of Bend have no control over these natural sources of microbes. Total coliform bacteria are found throughout the terrestrial and aquatic environment and are not associated with current or previous land uses in the Bridge Creek Watershed. The Bridge Creek Watershed has consistently complied with all applicable state and federal regulations for source water under the Safe Drinking Water Act, including the 1989 Surface Water Treatment Rule filtration-avoidance criteria.
Bend Municipal Watershed
Copies of the Table 2. Inventory Results – List of Potential Contaminant Sources document may be obtained by contacting the City of Bend.
## Feature Query Results

Click the feature name for details and to access map services

Click any column name to sort the list ascending ▲ or descending ▼

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**Note:** If data are returned and the column headings display but no data appear, click any column heading. *Elevations are from the National Elevation Dataset.*

**The map name is not necessarily the name of the community containing the feature. See FAQs for details.**
Hi Patrick,

My preference is that the Forest Service stay neutral on this issue. I don’t want to sound like we’re no supportive of Roger Prowell or the effort to get the spring named after him. Instead, this is a reflection of the many requests we get for memorials, naming rights, etc., for areas on National Forest System lands. Writing a letter of support in this instance would set a precedent that others could use in other naming requests, and I don’t want to get us stuck in a spot where we end up having to make arbitrary decisions or play referee on those requests. In that same vein, we simply cannot use any informal names in our maps or public information. I know it would help the cause, but it would have the potential to create a nightmare for us as different groups found out what we were up to and then brought their lists of informal names to us for publication.

I’m sorry to sound so officious and bureaucratic toward an utterly kind gesture. I hope you understand, and wish you the best of luck as the process moves along.

Kevin Larkin
District Ranger
Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest
(541) 383-4760

--- Forwarded by patrick griffiths/Bend on 04/24/2013 01:35 PM ---

From: "Lang, Marvin E -FS" <mlang@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2013 7:38 AM
To: pgriffiths@ci.bend.or.us
Cc: Tindernolt, Amy J -FS; Larkin, Kevin -FS
Subject: RE: Roger Prowell Recognition/Source Springs

I think it’s a great idea...there are some guidelines relating to naming geographic features and it sounds like Wendy is on track looking into it. My sups can weigh in as well.  Marv

From: pgriffiths@ci.bend.or.us [mailto:pgriffiths@ci.bend.or.us]
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 2:46 PM
To: Lang, Marvin E -FS
Subject: Fw: Roger Prowell Recognition/Source Springs

Marv

take a look at forwarded email
When Bend residents turn on their taps, they get some of the best-tasting water in the Pacific Northwest.

The city has won multiple awards for its water over the last decade, and city employees say former water quality supervisor Roger Prowell deserves much of the credit. They want to name the source springs in the Cascades foothills, where the city obtains much of its water, after Prowell.

The City Council took the first step July 17, when it voted to informally christen the previously unnamed water source Prowell Springs. Councilors also voted to support an application to the Oregon Geographic Names Board. Prowell lives in Bend, and applicants cannot submit their requests to the state board until five years after the death of any person to be honored.

“However, the existence of informal names is considered as part of the application review; thus, this action would support the formal effort,” according to a city report. More than 115 of Prowell's former colleagues and community members wrote or signed letters of support, which the city will include in its application.

Prowell is known among city public works employees for starting a program of annual hikes through the Bridge Creek watershed to raise awareness of water quality issues and encourage protection of the area. Representatives of the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality often joined those hikes. Prowell also worked with the Forest Service to limit recreation inside the watershed to hiking and create a permit entry system to make sure people do not contaminate the water.

Prowell now uses a wheelchair. He has an aggressive form of the neurodegenerative disease ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease, according to a recent report in The Dalles Chronicle. ALS affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord, and people may become completely paralyzed in later stages of the disease, according to the ALS Association. Prowell could not be reached for comment.

Fire foresight

Prowell began his 24-year career with the city in 1984, according to city documents. He developed plans to prevent ash and sediment from entering city water after the 1979 Bridge Creek Fire scorched part of the watershed, according to former Public Works Director Michael Elmore. According to Elmore and others who know Prowell, he saw the potential for fires to jeopardize the city water source.
“When lightning would venture into the region, you could always expect to find Roger at his favorite vantage point at the north side of the watershed where it was most visible from his elevated position,” city Program Technician Spencer Cashwell wrote in a letter.

John Potts worked for the state Drinking Water Program for a decade, starting in the 1990s. “(Prowell) was, at that time, the only person familiar with the complete boundary of the watershed, as he had marked the area with warning signs to inform the public in order to minimize human activity,” Potts wrote in a letter.

Bend stormwater program manager Wendy Edde said the importance of all this work was especially clear last year, when firefighters successfully worked to keep the Pole Creek Fire out of the watershed.

“That Pole Creek fire was coming toward the watershed,” Edde said. After Prowell’s annual hikes and other efforts, “a lot of people knew about the watershed and so they did a good job protecting that ridge, so it didn’t get over into it,” Edde said.

Return to Bend

Prowell left his job as Bend water quality supervisor in 2008 and went to work as district manager for the Chenowith Water Public Utility District in The Dalles. He retired from the Chenowith district a few weeks ago and moved back to his home in Bend, Edde said.

Prowell is also known by his colleagues for his philosophical, even poetic, thoughts on providing water to the public. He summed up his approach to a career in water in a statement that was displayed at a conference earlier this year:

“With my tenure on this earthly plane coming to somewhat a quick terminus, I would like to share some final thoughts on the elixir of life, our beloved eternal water,” Prowell wrote. “We as professional purveyors, hold the essence of our communities in our hands and in our hearts. If you do not have water in your heart, the water quality in your system will suffer from the lack of emotional attachment/connection/pride/love. Water is entwined with all of life, with our civilization, with our vision and dreams of the future.”