Domestic Geographic Name Report

Action Requested:

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

Recommended Name: Springfield Butte
State: Oregon
County: Lane
Administrative Area: Private Land

Specific Area Covered

☐ Mouth
☐ End
☑ Center

Latitude: 44°01'56"N
Longitude: 123°00'18"W

☐ Heading
☐ End

Latitude: ° ' " N
Longitude: ° ' " W

Section(s) 1 Townships 18S Range(s) 3W Meridian WM
**Elevation** 1,102
- [x] Feet
- [ ] Meters

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

**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):**

**Description of Feature** (physical shape, length, width, direction of flow, etc.)
Prominent mountain near Springfield's southern city limits and visible from most parts of the city.

<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>
</tr>
</thead>
</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):
Named after Springfield, Oregon. The city of Springfield was named after a "spring-in-a-field," which served as the water source for the cabin of the city's founder - Elias Briggs. Elias and his brother Isaac Briggs built a millrace at the base of Springfield Butte in 1852, hence the original name Briggs' Butte. The earliest date for use of the name Springfield Butte is 1983 in Clarke's "The Springfield Millrace & Early Mills," but most likely was used much earlier.
Is the recommended name in local usage?

☐ Yes
☐ No

If yes, for approximately how many years?

Is there local opposition to, or conflict, with the recommended name (as located)?

None
For proposed new name, please provide evidence that feature is unnamed:
U.S. Geographic Names Information System indicates that the butte has not been named.

Additional information:

Submitted By: Steve Morgan
Company or Agency:
Title:
Address (City, State, and ZIPCode): 1662 Roland Way, Springfield, OR 97477
Telephone: 541-337-3751
Date: 01/23/2019

Copy Prepared By (if other than above):
Company or Agency:
Title:
Address (City, State, and ZIPCode):
Phone (day):
Date:

Authority for Recommended Name: Steve Morgan
Mailing Address: 1662 Roland Way, Springfield, OR 97477
Telephone: 541-337-3751
Occupation: Independant Contractor
Years in Area: 19 years

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

Authority for Recommended Name:
Mailing Address:
Telephone:
Occupation:
Years in Area:
Image of proposed Springfield Butte

USGS 7.5 minute topoquad from 1950
In October 1849, Edward Rice, an agent of the Oregon Land Grant Program, became the first settler in Springfield, home to the historic professions of the Willamette Valley.

Pioneering settlers to exploit the rich farmland and natural resources made Springfield a thriving farming community. In the early 1900s, the town grew into a bustling metropolis, known for its rich history and cultural heritage.

By DOROTHY & MARA VELASCO

Corporate Profiles by PETER MALLORY

& KIM SULLIVAN
The true story of 500 pioneers who left the main Oregon Trail on a 'short-cut' route that led into the high Cascade Mountains.

Our Wagon Train Is Lost

written by Fred Peterson illustrated by John Williams

the whole business legal and orderly.

The Osprey lifts one wing, then the other, sweeping over the scattered landmarks. The rest is fire-covered, wagon soil and maple and alder-lined river. There is a new slough that cuts north to the Hilyard Shaw saw mill site. But the rest of the settlers have large plots scattered in the hills and on river bottom land.

The Osprey flies across the Cascade range, attempting to make its way down the Middle Fork of the Willamette, and there is need for food. Meet at the Isaac Briggs place at daybreak, be tells the Harlow, and be riders off to tell others.

Mrs. Harlow gets the household moving. The girls start cooking and preparing foods. The boys go out to bring home the oxen — there are no Scott, Jr. is alerted and already en route with a pack horse. So is W. W. Briartow. And so are Lester Hulman, James Hendricks, Jacob Spores, Walker Young, Square Powers, Hulings Miller, Presley Comeagys, and Abell and John Rusell — early settlers along the river.

The Osprey flies ahead, to the mountains where the earliest rescuers
The Springfield Millrace
and early Mills
by David W. Clarke
for the Springfield
Historical Commission

with illustrations funded by the Oregon Committee
for the Humanities, an affiliate of the National
Endowment for the Humanities.

childless when they left Kentucky in the spring of 1848 and headed
for a new life in the Oregon Territory. 4

Perhaps Elias had heard of the southern Willamette Valley and had a
particular interest in entering from that end, or perhaps he was
just an adventurous man, but either way he decided to take the
newly established "Southern Route" from Fort Hall. 5 He first stopped
near the Pleasant Hill settlement of Elijah Bristow, perhaps to wait
out the winter, but early in 1849 he staked a claim 3 miles up the
Willamette River from Eugene Skinner's claim in order to operate a
ferry crossing. 6 Because he was married, Elias Briggs was eligible
to claim 640 acres of free land under the Oregon Land Grant program.

Briggs staked his claim on a particularly flat piece of land adjoining
the Willamette River between the two buttes now known as Springfield Butte and Kelly Butte. The first surveyor of the land described
the soil as "gravelly and second rate," but the Briggs weren't dis-
couraged from farming their secluded spot. 8 There were very few
trees, if any, because the Indians burned the valley regularly to
control tree growth. The area may have reminded Briggs very much of
the plains he had crossed coming to Oregon.

The family built their cabin and fenced a portion of their claim
around a natural spring that bubbled to life. Some reports state
that the spring had such force that it sprayed water high into the
air. 9 Whether fact or exaggeration, Briggs piped the water into a
large wooden tank to use as the family water source. This supply
continued as a community source of water for twenty-five years. 10

The first year the Briggs ferry probably served many people going
to the California gold fields. William Steven, who settled a claim
of 540 acres...
Steyaert, Jeff <Jeff.Steyaert@kniferiver.com>
To: "Bruce.J.Fisher@gmail.com" <Bruce.J.Fisher@gmail.com>
Cc: "morgansteve241@yahoo.com" <morgansteve241@yahoo.com>

Bruce,

Knife River Corporation – Northwest (Knife River) is the owner of the Springfield Quarry property.

Knife River has no objection it being called "Springfield Butte".

If you should have any further questions please feel free to contact me direct.

Thanks

Jeff Steyaert

Environmental / Permitting & Property MGR.
Knife River Corporation – Northwest
32260 Old Hwy 34
Tangent, OR 97289
E-mail: Jeff.steyaert@kniferiver.com
O: 541-918-5142; C: 541-968-1898; F: 541-918-5375

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Bruce Fisher <bruce.j.fisher@gmail.com>
To: Champ Vaughan <vaughan1843@comcast.net>

Champ,

Response from Knife River about Springfield Butte.

I am in Anchorage at the moment.

Bruce
[Quoted text hidden]
BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 19-05-14-01

In the Matter of Commenting On Proposed Name Changes for a Natural Feature Located in Lane County to the Oregon Geographic Names Board

WHEREAS, geographic naming in Oregon is a public process by which anyone can submit a formal proposal for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) is the official advisor and state geographic names authority of Oregon with the purpose of supervising the naming of geographic features within the state of Oregon and making recommendations to the United States Board on Geographic Names (USBGN), which has final approval authority; and

WHEREAS, the OGNB has determined that the mountain has not been officially named; and

WHEREAS, the OGNB has received no additional proposals to name the mountain to date; and

WHEREAS, the OGNB requests comment from the Lane County Board of County Commissioners on naming proposals prior to the OGNB forwarding their recommendation to the USBGN.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County ORDERS as follows:

Support for the proposed name of “Springfield Butte” for the mountain near Springfield centered at 44° 01' 56" N, 123° 00' 18" W.

ADOPTED this 14th day of May, 2019.

Pete Sorenson, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

REVISED 5/15/16