**Governor Snell Ridge**: ridge; elevation 5,977 ft.; 0.5 mi. long; in Fremont National Forest, approx. 3.1 mi. W of Dog Lake, 2 mi. NE of Albertson Reservoir; the name commemorates Governor Earl Wilcox Snell (1895-1947), who was killed in a plane crash on the ridge; Lake County, Oregon; Sec 25, T40S, R16W, Willamette Meridian; 42°04’08”N, 105°13’59”W; USGS map - Strawberry Butte 1:24,000.

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesricoor?p_lat=42.06877&p_longi=-120.778322

Proposal: new commemorative name for unnamed feature

Map: USGS map - Strawberry Butte 1:24,000

Proponent: Ted Curphey; Cheney, WA

Administrative area: Fremont-Winema National Forest

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: None found

Local Usage: Governor’s Ridge (Forest Service)

Published: Governor’s Ridge (Forest Service memorial plaque)

Case Summary: This proposal is to apply the new name Governor Snell Ridge to a 0.5-mile-long ridge with an elevation of 5,977 feet in Fremont National Forest in Lake County.

According to the proposal, “On October 28th, 1947, Governor Earl W. Snell and his party, including the Secretary of State, Robert Farrell, and the President of the Oregon Senate, Marshall Cornett, as well as the pilot Cliff Hogue, died when their plane, a 1945 built Beechcraft Bonanza, struck this ridge. They were out for a one-day goose-hunting trip at the Warner Valley ranch of Snell’s friend Oscar Kittredge. Bad weather and a low cloud ceiling apparently caused Hogue, an experienced pilot, to misjudge safe altitude, and the plane smashed into a remote mountain on the Fremont National Forest.”

In 2018, the Governor Earl W. Snell Aircraft Crash Site was added to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination form described the site as “located in dense timber, not visible from the nearby road, but the location is known to the local community. In 1995 the Forest Service installed a commemorative metal plaque at the site.” It was determined that the site had statewide significance, “in part because the shock of the dramatic loss of Oregon’s top political leaders – a loss stemming from the personal desire and decision of the three individuals to enjoy a day of goose hunting – led to prohibition of such figures from traveling in the same airplane in the future. Of more substance, the site is significant as a tangible reminder of the loss of these three political leaders at a critical time in Oregon history.”

Although the name Governor's Ridge has been in local use for some time and was the name originally proposed, the Snell family has requested that it be amended to Governor Snell Ridge. The U.S. Forest Service expressed support for the name Governors Ridge and has been asked to consider the amended proposal.