



THE STATE
of ALASKA

GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History and Archaeology

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565
907.269.8721

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>

June 3, 2024

Re: 3050-3 Mount Carola

Matanuska-Susitna Borough
350 E Dahlia Ave
Palmer, Alaska 99645
mike.brown@matsugov.us
cc: Peggy.Horton@matsugov.us

Dear Borough Manager,

The Alaska Historical Commission has received a geographic name proposal to name an unnamed mountain peak found in Denali National Park and Preserve between Ruth Glacier and Tokasitna Glacier north of Petersville. The proposed name is "Mount Carola" and is a commemorative name for Carola "Carol" J. Young of Petersville and Talkeetna. A copy of the proposal is enclosed for review, as well as a map showing the feature's location, and the guidelines for geographic names that the Alaska Historical Commission members have established.

The commission would appreciate your comments on the proposed name. To object or to endorse the proposed name, you must respond in writing. Your comments need to be received by August 15, 2024. You can respond with a letter or by writing your comments in the box below. Please send your comments by mail to the address above or by email to dnr.oha@alaska.gov.

If you have any questions about the state geographic names program, please contact Katie Ringsmuth at email katie.ringsmuth@alaska.gov or by phone at (907) 269-8714.

Sincerely,

Katherine Ringsmuth
Geographic Names Coordinator and State Historian
KJR: mms

Enclosures

<p>I _____ object / _____ endorse the proposed name because: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p>
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Domestic Geographic Name Report

1 Use this form to recommend a feature name or to suggest a name change.

2. For features on Federal lands, coordinate requests with the agency (U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc.) For the administrative area in which the land is located.

3. On the reverse side of this form give information on the local usage and authority for recommended name.

4. For more information about the Geographic Names Information System or the National Gazetteer Program, contact the U.S. Board on Geographic Names at 703-648-4544.

5. Return this form to:

Executive Secretary for Domestic
Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, VA 22092

Action Requested

Proposed New Name: X Recommended Name: Mt. Carola
Application Change: State: Alaska
Name Change: County or Equivalent: Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Other: Administrative Area: Denali National Park & Preserve

Specific Area Covered:

Latitude: 62 ° 39 ' 15.48 " N Longitude: 150 ° 40 ' 18.48 " W
Latitude: ° ' " NS Longitude: ° ' " WS
Center: Heading End
Section(s) 30 Township(s) 31N Range(s) 17W Meridian Seward Elevation

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

Is the Feature identified (including other names), in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)?

Yes No X Unknown If Yes, how is it listed?

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

Mountain found north of Petersville. Lies between Ruth Glacier and Tokasitna Glacier.

Maps and other sources using recommended name (including scale and date).	Other names (variants)	Maps and other sources using other name or application (including scale and date).
N/A	N/A	N/A

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

This proposal is to name a mountain peak found north of Petersville, between Ruth Glacier and Tokasitna Glacier, after a miner and pioneer woman of Alaska, Carola "Carol" J. Young, who lived from 1936-2018. The proposed name is "Mt Carola" and is commemorative. As a commemorative name proposal, the proposer must demonstrate that the individual in question has been deceased for five years before the proposal; that the individual made a significant, acknowledged contribution to the community and/or state over time; the individual had a direct association with the feature in question for a period of years, and that there is local support for the proposed name.

According to the proposer, Carola Young's daughter, Carola, lived and worked in the Petersville and Talkeetna areas for a long time. She previously mined near Cache Creek on Falls Creek and owned and operated the Fairview Inn in Talkeetna from 1971 to 1978. She helped establish the VAFW Post 3836 in Talkeetna in the 1970s and worked in mining and with mining organizations for decades. She served as the president of the Yentna Mining District for 23 years, was a member of the Alaska Miners Association for 40 years and was appointed to serve on the South Denali Development Steering Committee to represent Yentna miners by then Governor Tony Knowles. Through the committee, she helped implement the SNOWtrac program for groomed winter trails throughout the state.

The proposer has also collected several letters and emails demonstrating local support for the proposed new name "Mt. Carola," with many citing her contributions to the mining community in Yentna and Alaska overall.

Is the recommended name in local usage? Yes No If Yes, approximately how many years? _____

Is there local opposition to, or conflict with the recommended name (as located)? None Reported.

For proposed new name, please provide evidence that feature is unnamed: No recorded name for the feature on GNIS.

Additional information:

The peak is found within the boundaries of Denali National Park & Preserve in "Eligible Wilderness."

Organizations for Consultation:

- Chickaloon Native Village
- Cook Inlet Regional, Inc.
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- Doyon, Limited
- Denali National Park & Preserve
- Board of Geographic Names National Park Service Representative
- Knik Tribal Council
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- Mountaineering Club of Alaska
- Native Village of Cantwell
- Native Village of Eklutna
- Tanana Chiefs Conference

Copy submitted by: Name (first, M.I., last)	Title	Phone (day)	Date
Michele Stevens			

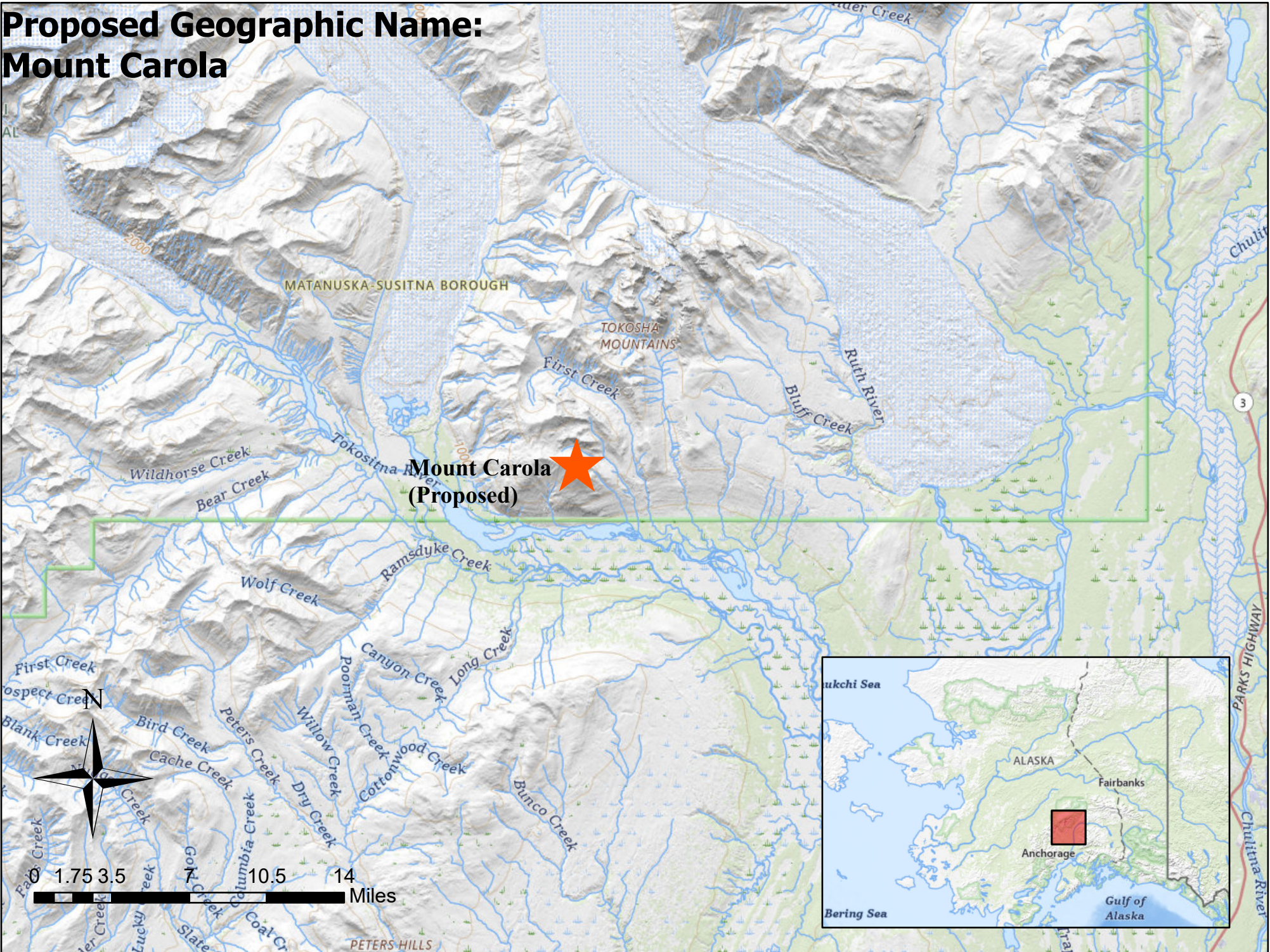
Company or Agency	Address (city, State, and Zip)
	Anchorage, AK

Copy Prepared by (if other than above)	Title	Phone (day)	Date
Judith E. Bittner	SHPO	(907) 269-8721	

Company or Agency	Address (city, State, and Zip)
Alaska Department of Natural Resources/Office of History and Archaeology	550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

Authority for Recommended Name:	Mailing Address and Telephone	Occupation	Years in Area
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Proposed Geographic Name: Mount Carola



USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, National Land Cover Database, National Structures Dataset, and National Transportation Dataset; USGS Global Ecosystems; U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line data; USFS Road data; Natural Earth Data; U.S. Department of State HII; NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

In Remeberance of Carola "Carol" June Young



Carola "Carol" June Young, born on December 15, 1936 in Scotia, California, passed away at age 81 on April 30, 2018 at St. Elias Hospital in Anchorage, Alaska. Carol was a warrior against her battle with cancer and heart failure. I have never seen anyone so brave and strong.

Carol came to Alaska in 1956 married to James H Stevens Sr.; Jim was an Air traffic Controller with the Tactical Air Command in the Air Force. It was their dream to live the adventures of Alaska. While living in Anchorage Carol worked at Providence Hospital as a Medical Records Technician. In 1967 Jim and Carol, along with their three children moved to Talkeetna and built a log home. They enjoyed dog mushing, fishing and hunting. Their Alaska dream was cut short when Jim passed away March 3, 1970 while serving in active duty. He was a young age of 38. After Jim passed Carol helped with establishing the VFW Post 3836 in Talkeetna, Alaska.

In 1971 Carol and her mother Babe Barnes bought The Fairview Inn in Talkeetna. They remolded The Fairview Inn after the Inn caught fire and destroyed the floor. They always had hot soup or chili in a pot for whomever was hungry. They made sure everyone was welcome. They hired an artist to paint pictures of all of the pioneers or "Old Timers" of Talkeetna. The paintings are still on the walls to this day. Carol built a small downstairs apartment in the Inn for Babe. They felt the need to have 24-hour presence in case anyone needed a room.

In 1972 Carol and a friend ventured in a canoe down the Yukon River from Eagle, Alaska to the Norton Sound area of the Bering Sea. This trek took 5 weeks and covered some 2,100 miles. The canoe was special made just for this trek.

In 1978 Carol sold the Fairview Inn and married Robert Young a gold miner. She continued to live the adventures of Alaska. Living in the wilderness without electricity or water, yet somehow Carol made mining camp a luxury by plumbing the water to camp via gravity fed; building a shower house and extra accommodations for family and friends. There was always homemade bread and good food at camp. Later in life a generator made camp even more luxurious.

Carol was a "Jack of All Trades Master of None" she could be a Carpenter, a Plumber, an Electrician and Attorney at law, without the diploma and she was a Miner. She was computer literate and I often admired how she kept up with technology. She could build a house from the ground up. She loved refurbishing old trailers, 28 to be exact through out her lifetime. Her favorites were "Vintage" Airstreams. She refurbished five Airstreams total and all had their own special color theme.

For 23 years Carol was the President of Yentna Mining District (Petersville, Alaska). Governor Tony Knowles appointed her to serve on the South Denali Development Plan Committee. She spent many hours and days for 15 years representing the miners, and working with the State of Alaska, The National Park Service, and others, trying to stop the construction of a Visitor Center under the South Denali Development Plan for the Petersville Area. She along with others were successful in stopping the Visitor Center. Carol was also instrumental in implementing the SNOWtrac program. A program that is for groomed winter trail use throughout the State of Alaska.

Carol loved her Chevy Turbo Duramax diesel truck with duel stacks. She loved riding Snow Machines and ATV's, she loved reading books, she loved birds and she had many animal friends, both domestic and wild.

Carol is survived by her spouse: Robert Young, her sons, James H Stevens II and Jerald W Stevens; and her daughter, Michele Stevens, her grandsons: James Stevens III and Jason Stevens, and brother Gene Gosnell. Carol was preceded in death by her spouse James H Stevens Sr., and her mother Babe Barnes.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Petersville Search and Rescue P. O. Box 13392 Trapper Creek, Alaska 99683 or petersvillecommunitynpc.org Condolences to the family may be sent to Michele Stevens P.O. Box 20 Talkeetna, Alaska 99676. Friends and family can pay their respects at a celebration of life for Carola and her Mother Babe Barns to be announced soon in Talkeetna, Alaska.

Carola J Young was a miner and a pioneer women of Alaska. She was fluent in mining law, was computer literate, and was a "jack of all trades and master of none." She lived her mining adventures near Cache Creek on Falls Creek. Living in the wilderness without running water and electricity, yet somehow she made mining camp a luxury, she plumbed the camp via gravity fed water; built a shower house and extra accommodations for family and friends. We called it Youngsville. Carola could build a house from the ground up. She loved refurbishing old trailers, 28 to be exact throughout her lifetime most units where for mining camp. Her favorites were "vintage" Airstreams, she refurbished 5 Airstreams total and all had their own special color theme.

There was always homemade bread and good food at camp. Later in life a generator made camp more luxurious. The State workers and geologist working in the area always stopped in for fresh coffee and cinnamon rolls.

Governor Tony Knowles appointed her to serve on the South Denali Development Steering Committee representing the Yenta miners. She served as President of the Yenta Mining District for 23 years. Carola spent 15 years representing the miners, working with the state of Alaska, the national parks service, and others, in efforts to stop the construction of the South Denali visitor center in the Petersville area. She, along with others were successful in stopping the visitor center which is now at Kesugi Ken area near Beyers Lake. Carola was a member of Alaska Miners Assoc. for 40 years.

Carola and her mother Babe Barnes owned the Fairview Inn in Talkeetna. They remodeled the Fairview Inn after the Inn caught fire and destroyed the floor. They always had hot soup or chili in a pot for whomever was hungry, Miners, Mountain climbers, people who lived in the bush and locals. They made sure everyone was welcome. To honor the "old timers" Carola hired an artist to paint the "old timers" of Talkeetna. The paintings are still on the wall to this day. Carola built a small apartment in the Inn for her mom Babe. They felt the need to have a 24 hour presence in case anyone needed a room or food.

Carola helped establish the VFAW post 3836 in Talkeetna. She was instrumental in establishing the SnowTRAC program. A program for winter groomed trails and safety throughout the State of Alaska.



Talkeetna Historical Society and Museum

PO Box 76 Talkeetna Alaska 99676
907-733-2487

To whom it may concern,

My name is Autumn Merritt, and I am the Executive Director of the Talkeetna Historical Society. I am writing to you today in support of Michele Stevens and her request to have a mountain named after her beloved and influential mother, Carola June Young.

Carol's impact on the town of Talkeetna cannot be understated, and she is remembered well by her contemporaries. She was one of the many owners of the Fairview Inn, widely considered to be the heart of the town. She and her mother, Babe Barnes, remodeled it after it had been badly damaged in a fire and ran it for nearly a decade. It was they who commissioned the famous pastels of the "old-timers" that still grace the walls to this day. Carol helped establish the VFW Post 3836, which is an extremely important asset to Talkeetna. And for 23 years, she served as the President of the Yentna Mining District in Petersville, an area that shares a long and storied history with ours. She was instrumental in preventing the construction of a visitors' center which would have permanently altered the rural character of that part of the country. Talkeetna would not exist as it is today without the mining operations of Petersville, and we have an abiding interest in the preservation of the region and the continuation of the natural and cultural resources that enhance it.

I appeal to the committee to consider Ms. Stevens' petition to immortalize her mother and her accomplishments forever. The honor of having a mountain bearing her name – one that overlooks the place where Carol spent so much time and which she fought so hard to protect - is a fitting memorial to the life of a true Alaskan woman.

Respectfully,

Autumn Merritt

Executive Director
Talkeetna Historical Society and Museum



121 W. FIREWEED SUITE 120 | ANCHORAGE, ALASKA | 99503 | 907.563.9229 | ALASKAMINERS.ORG

February 9, 2024

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Office of History and Archaeology
500 W 7th Ave Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Naming mountain after Carola Young

To whom it may concern:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to provide its support for naming a mountain in our state after Carola J. Young, an incredibly deserving recipient.

AMA is a professional membership trade organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,400 members that come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Our members include individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies, Alaska Native Corporations, and the contracting sector that supports Alaska's mining industry.

Carola came to Alaska in 1956 with her husband in the United States Air Force and they immediately fell in love with our great state. It only took them two years to move to Talkeetna, build a log home, and begin dog mushing, fishing and hunting. Tragically, Carola's husband passed while serving in active duty, but Carola channeled her heartbreak into establishing the VFW Post 3836 in Talkeetna and becoming involved in assisting our armed forces members.

She then purchased the Fairview Inn in Talkeetna, remodeling it and establishing it as a place where anyone could come in day or night for a hot meal and a comfortable place to sleep. Miners, mountain climbers, rural Alaskans and locals would gather at the Fairview and eventually Carola hired an artist to commission the iconic "old timers" paintings on the walls of the Fairview Inn to this day.

In 1978, Carola sold the Fairview Inn when she married Bob Young, a gold miner, and moved to the Petersville area to help with their placer mining operation. There, she continued her spirit of hospitality and living the adventures of Alaska in a mining camp without electricity or water. Somehow Carol made it a luxury by plumbing the water to camp via a gravity fed system and building a shower house and extra accommodations for family and friends. The kitchen always had homemade bread and good food, and it got even better when a generator made camp more luxurious. State agency personnel and geologists working in the area always stopped in for fresh coffee and cinnamon rolls.

Carola became very active in the area, serving as the President of the Yentna Mining District for 23 years. Governor Tony Knowles appointed her to serve on the South Denali Development Steering Committee representing the Yentna miners, working with the State of Alaska, the National Park Service, and others, in



efforts to relocate the South Denali visitor center away from the Petersville area to Kesugi Ken near Beyers Lake. Her service ensured that miners in the District were able to continue their livelihoods and the visitors to our state had top-notch facilities elsewhere in the Denali area. This is the balance and spirit Alaskans are known for and proud of.

Her public service did not stop there – she was instrumental in establishing SnowTRAC, a program for winter groomed trails and safety for mushers, snowmachiners, and other trail users. She was also active in the Petersville Search and Rescue program. Last, and certainly not least in our eyes, she was a member of the Alaska Miners Association for over 40 years, until she passed in 2018.

Carola Young embodies the Alaska spirit and is the kind of legend we can all be proud of, and AMA could not be more proud to endorse naming a mountain after her.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any further information for you to consider and honor this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deantha Skibinski".

Deantha Skibinski
Executive Director

From: [Ringsmuth, Katie J \(DNR\)](#)
To: [Sine, Mary M \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: FW: Naming a Mountain for Carol Young
Date: Monday, March 4, 2024 8:24:26 AM

Hi Mary,

Do we have a file open for Carol Young?

If so, would you mind adding the following comments?

If we don't have a file open, we may need to contact the commenter and suggest they submit a proposal.

Thanks!

katie

Katie Ringsmuth

State Historian
Alaska State Historic Preservation Office
Office of History & Archaeology

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3561
Direct: 907-269-8714
katie.ringsmuth@alaska.gov
<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>

From: Gease, Ricky John (DNR) <ricky.gease@alaska.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 11:42 AM
To: Ringsmuth, Katie J (DNR) <katie.ringsmuth@alaska.gov>
Cc: Bittner, Judith E (DNR) <judy.bittner@alaska.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Naming a Mountain for Carol Young

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bob Loeffler <bobl@jadenorth.com>
Date: March 3, 2024 at 11:07:12 AM AKST
To: "Gease, Ricky John (DNR)" <ricky.gease@alaska.gov>
Cc: aksnowgirl@icloud.com
Subject: Naming a Mountain for Carol Young

[You don't often get email from bobl@jadenorth.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Director Gease:

I understand there is a movement to name a mountain in the Yentna Mining District overlooking the Tokositna River for Carol Young, who died in 2018. Please add my name to that movement, and please forward this e-mail to whomever is considering such changes. Thank you.

Ms. Young was for many years the heart of the Yentna Mining District. She was the policy guide, spokesperson, and someone people came to for information and advice. When I was Director of the division of Mining, Land and Water, I was the beneficiary of her advice for many years and I valued it. Naming the mountain after her would be a fitting memorial

Sincerely,

- Bob Loeffler

Bob Loeffler
907-250-4621
bobl@jadenorth.com

Department of Natural Resources

ALASKA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
: 907.269.8721
dnr.oha@alaska.gov

ALASKA'S GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

a program of the

ALASKA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Alaska Historical Commission serves as the geographic names board for the State of Alaska (AS 41.35.350). The citizen board, chaired by the Lt. Governor, reviews names proposed for lakes, streams, mountains, and other physical features in the state. The commission coordinates its program with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. The commission has established a process to consider proposals, as has the federal board. It takes at least a year to name a geographic feature.

In 1982 the State of Alaska enacted a law urging the state geographic names board to consider Alaska Native place names for geographic features in the state that have not previously been named, using Native language writing systems accepted by the Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names has a policy to identify a single official name and spelling for each geographic feature. One or more **variant** names can be identified if needed for clarity or reference. A variant is any current or historic name or spelling for a geographic feature other than the official name. It might appear on maps in parentheses following the official name.

To propose an official name for a geographic feature, an application is made to the Alaska Historical Commission. The form is available at:

http://www.dnr.alaska.gov/Assets/uploads/DNRPublic/parks/oha/designations/AKgeographicname_app.pdf or from the Office of History & Archaeology, 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, AK 99501, 907.269.8721. The complete application and supporting material should be mailed, delivered to the office, or sent by email to dnr.oha@alaska.gov.

All proposals must be accompanied by a **map** showing U.S. Geological Survey information and identifying clearly the feature to be named. Additional maps are encouraged that show the immediate area around the feature to be named, or show the feature in relation to major geographic features, communities, and roads as appropriate. Photographs and other identifying aids are useful but are not required.

Evidence of local support is encouraged. These might be letters, petitions, newspaper articles, and letters to the editor, showing public awareness and endorsement of the proposed name. The proposer must establish that property owners of the feature or close to it have been made aware of the name proposal and given a chance to comment.

GUIDELINES

In the review of a proposed name, the Alaska Historical Commission uses the following guidelines and the policies of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (*Principles, Policies, and Procedures for Domestic Geographic Names*, <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/policies.htm>). A proposal must identify the type of proposed name from the categories below, address the special conditions, and establish why the feature needs an official name.

Local usage

Active local use is the single, best reason to name a geographic feature. Local usage refers to a name for a geographic feature that has evolved over a period of years, is called that name by the community or area as a whole, and is supported by local petitions, oral histories, documents, or other publications. A feature named by the applicant is not considered local usage, even when the applicant has called the feature by that name for a number of years.

The Alaska Historical Commission encourages the proposer to:

- include evidence of common verbal or written usage of the proposed name, such as petitions signed by local residents, resolutions, or letters of support for the proposed name from local government entities and community groups

Descriptive names (includes features named by applicant)

The Alaska Historical Commission asks the proposer to establish that:

- the name is relevant and descriptive of the feature
- the name is not in use elsewhere in the region (unless for a related feature)
- the name is in good taste and not frivolous
- the name has been used for a minimum of five years and evidence is provided of the use
- the property owners of the feature and those living adjacent to it have been notified of the proposed name and given a chance to comment on it

Alaska Native names

The Alaska Historical Commission asks the proposer to establish that:

- the name is or was in common local use and that use is documented
- the name is linguistically appropriate to the area in which it is to be applied
- the land owner has been notified of the proposed name and given a chance to comment on it
- there has been consultation on the spelling and use of diacritical marks (special marks not normally used in the English alphabet) with all Native groups in the area and with the Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Commemorative names *(please read the special section)*

The Alaska Historical Commission asks the proposer to establish that:

- . the individual has been deceased for five (5) years and evidence of this (such as an obituary and biography) is provided
- . the individual made a significant, acknowledged contribution over time to the community or state
- . the individual had a direct association with the feature for a period of years
- . there is local support by residents and local authorities as evidenced by including letters, petitions, and resolutions

Historical names

The Alaska Historical Commission asks the proposer to establish that:

- . the proposed name was in common local use and that use is documented
- . the name is clearly associated with the area

Name changes

The Alaska Historical Commission is reluctant to change existing names, but will consider doing so if the proposer demonstrates a compelling reason and if there is local support for the change. It has been shown that changing long-standing names can cause confusion and unforeseen costs.

The Alaska Historical Commission asks the proposer to establish, as appropriate, that:

- . the current official name is derogatory to a racial, ethnic, gender, or religious group
- . the current official name is duplicative and causing confusion
- . the current official name is not spelled correctly
- . there is extensive local support by local authorities and residents for the name proposed and the name change as evidenced by letters, local petitions, and resolutions from local government entities and organizations
- . the property owners of the feature and adjacent to it have been notified of the proposed name and given a chance to comment

Names in wilderness areas (including wilderness study areas)

The Alaska Historical Commission does not approve names for natural features in federally designated wilderness areas or study areas unless the proposer demonstrates that an exception is warranted.

The Alaska Historical Commission asks the proposer to establish that:

- there is an overriding need to name the feature (such as for purposes of safety, education, or area administration)

the land manager has been consulted and provided the opportunity to comment on the proposed name

Associative names

The Alaska Historical Commission accepts, in fact encourages, using the same name for features related to each other, such as forks of a river or a creek that comes from a glacier.

The Alaska Historical Commission asks to proposer to establish:

- the relationship between the two features using maps
- the property owners of the features and those adjacent to them have been notified of the proposed name and given a chance to comment
- the provisions for descriptive, commemorative, Alaska Native, wilderness and other categories are addressed as well

COMMEMORATIVE NAMES

A commemorative name of a geographic feature is to honor and recognize an individual who has made an outstanding or noteworthy contribution to an area or the state, or is a national or international figure. A commemorative name might be for an event. A commemorative place name is not intended to memorialize a family member, friend, pet or animal.

Proposals containing a given name (first or last) or nickname of an individual are considered commemorative. The full name of a person as part of a geographic name normally is not approved unless surname use alone would be ambiguous.

The person must have been deceased *for at least five (5) years* before the Alaska Historical Commission will consider a commemorative name proposal. An obituary or biography of the individual must be part of the proposal. The information should establish the individual's *direct association* with the feature, and that the individual made a *significant contribution* to the area in which the feature is located.

Direct association. To commemorate an event, it should have occurred at or near the feature or have had an impact on the region or state. To commemorate a person, the individual should have been physically present at or near the feature for a number of years, or engaged in some activity that affected the feature. A person's death on or at a feature, such as a mountaineering accident or plane crash, or the ownership of land adjacent to or of the feature, and recreational use or visits to a feature do not normally meet this criterion.

Significance. The proposer must establish why the event or individual is particularly worthy of recognition. The importance of an event can be in the social, political, economic, scientific, or cultural areas. The contribution of an individual must be notable, of consequence, and have had an impact on the community,

region or state. A significant contribution is an extraordinary effort, achievement, or impact. It may come from the individual's work, professional or civic activities, and can be in the social, political, economic, scientific, or cultural areas. The contribution should have benefitted Alaskans beyond the individual's immediate circle of family and friends. Generally, these individuals will have been recognized through a letter of thanks from the Governor or Legislature, certificates of appreciation from an agency or group, awards, newspaper articles featuring the contribution made, dedication of local man-made features (park, street, garden, building), and the like. The individual might be a historical figure.

Features in Alaska can be named for events of significance nationally or internationally. Features also can be named for persons who made a significant contribution nationally or internationally, especially if the contribution was exceptional and unique. In such instances, the requirement of direct association does not need to be met, but the other requirements for commemorative names must be met.

Commemorative name proposals must demonstrate local residents have been advised of the proposal. Proposals should include evidence of local support by local authorities and residents attesting to the individual's association with the feature and significant contribution locally, to the state or nation, or internationally.

GEOGRAPHIC NAMING PROCESS

Upon receipt, a name proposal is reviewed for completeness. If necessary, the applicant is asked for additional information. Of particular concern is that adjacent land owners have been advised of the proposed name and had a chance to comment on it.

A Domestic Geographic Name Report (a U.S. Board on Geographic Names form) is prepared and sent with a map and supporting information to relevant Native groups, public land managers, local governments, and other interested parties and local media for comment on the proposed name. For proposed Native names, the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks is consulted. Interested parties might include local civic groups, historical organizations, pilot associations, and outdoor groups.

The Alaska Historical Commission members receive the report, map, and all public input before discussing and acting to approve or not approve a proposed name. The nine-member commission meets at least two times a year. Commission members reference these guidelines in their formal action. The applicant is notified of the meeting at which the commission will consider their proposed name and provided with copies of comments received from reviewers. Every meeting has a public comment period when an applicant and others interested in the proposed name can address commission members. Place names approved by the Alaska Historical Commission are official for the State of Alaska.

Following the meeting, applicants are notified in writing of the Alaska Historical Commission's action on their proposal. Unless tabled, the Domestic Geographic Name Report, all comments received, and record of the commission's action are sent to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. Staff there also have a review process before the board considers and votes on a proposed name. The USBGN is the final word on choice, spelling, and official use of the place names in the U.S. Its approval makes a name official nationally. The name is entered in the Geographic Name Information System (GNIS), <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/>. When a

federal map is revised and updated an effort is made to add the name, but approval does not guarantee a name will appear on USGS and other federal maps.

The Alaska Office of History & Archaeology has a program manager for geographic names who can answer questions or provide additional information.

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