

Morrison Peak, Churchill County



Roger B. Morrison (1914–2006)

Nevada Peak Named in Commemoration of Roger B. Morrison

Roger B. Morrison was an internationally known field geologist who was one of the first researchers to study and formally describe the Pleistocene Lake Lahontan deposits of western Nevada. His contributions to the fields of Quaternary geology, geomorphology, and soils spanned seven decades and have few parallels in geological studies of the Basin and Range. Roger earned a BS and MA in geology from Cornell University on 1934. He began a life-long career with the U.S. Geological Survey in the late 1930s studying groundwater resources in the arid West.

In 1949, he was assigned to be Chief of the Fallon, Nevada project, a study investigating groundwater resources of the Carson Desert area. This work eventually formed the basis for a Ph.D. dissertation in geology that Roger completed at the University of Nevada, Reno in 1964. This was the first PhD granted by UNR in any field of study, and it formed the basis for the subsequent USGS Professional Paper 401, Lake Lahontan: Geology of Southern Carson Desert, one of the most significant contributions to the geological history of Nevada. These studies of Lake Lahontan were focused in the Lahontan Mountains near Grimes Point, Nevada, and many of the current place names of this area owe their origin to Morrison's field studies. The newly named "Morrison Peak" is located on the west flank of Seho Mountain, named by Morrison during his field studies, and overlooking many of the well-known Lake Lahontan geological features discovered by Morrison.

This naming proposal was submitted by John Bell (Professor Emeritus, NBMG) to the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names and was approved by the United States Board on Geographic Names on February 17, 2016 (letter above). The official listing can be viewed on the USGS Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) at <http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=136:2:0::NO:RP::>



UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

In reply please use this address:
U. S. Geological Survey
523 National Center
Reston, Virginia 20192-0523

February 17, 2016

Mr. John W. Bell
Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, Nevada 89557

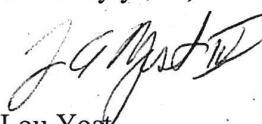
Dear Mr. Bell:

We are pleased to inform you that the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, at its February 11, 2016 meeting, approved your proposal to apply the new commemorative name Morrison Peak to a summit in Churchill County.

The name has been entered into the Geographic Names Information System, the nation's official geographic names repository, which is available and searchable online at <http://geonames.usgs.gov>. The entry reads as follows:

Morrison Peak: summit; elevation 1,315 ft.; on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, 0.6 mi. NW of Seho Mountain; the name honors Dr. Roger B. Morrison (1914–2006), a prominent geologist who made significant contributions to the knowledge of the geological history of Nevada; Sec 15, T18N, R30E, Mount Diablo Meridian; Churchill County, Nevada; 39°25'24"N, 118°36'24"W; USGS map – Lahontan Mountains, 1:24,000.

Sincerely yours,


Lou Yost
Executive Secretary
U.S. Board on Geographic Names



Dr. Morrison's work provided the basis for two recent Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology publications:

Geologic Map of the Lahontan Mountains Quadrangle, Churchill County, Nevada (second edition)

<http://pubs.nbmng.unr.edu/Geol-map-of-Lahontan-Mts-quad-p/m168.htm>

Geologic Map of the Grimes Point Quadrangle, Churchill County, Nevada

<http://pubs.nbmng.unr.edu/Geol-map-Grimes-Point-quad-p/m173.htm>