




A DATABASE TO FACILITATE REMOVAL OF *SQUAW* GEOGRAPHIC PLACE NAMES IN OREGON

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OUTLINE

- Background on *Squaw* Geographic place names in Oregon
 - Database design objective and intended applications
 - Data layers, methods and techniques used
 - Application demonstration of database
 - Limitations and problems of final database
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BACKGROUND
ON
OREGON'S
SQUAW
GEOGRAPHIC
PLACE NAMES



Squaw Creek Falls, Sisters, Oregon

www.mcneilsonwheels.com/smSquawCreekFalls2.jpg

DATABASE OBJECTIVE

- To aid in the identification of the remaining “Squaw” geographic names in Oregon and to facilitate gathering of required data for a name change submittal to the Oregon Geographic Names Board and the US Geographic Names Board

BACKGROUND

- Recent push in the past decade to rename *Squaw* geographic features
- Controversial - Proponents say *Squaw* is an offensive word, others say it's simply a word for *women* or *girl*.
- 2001 – At the urging of Oregon tribes, Oregon legislature passed a resolution declaring that all remaining *Squaw* features in the state of Oregon be renamed
- 2008 - Oregon has the most *Squaw* geographic features of any state in the union. 126 still exist in Oregon.

PEOPLE INVOLVED



Oregon Geographic Names Board- State board of appointed representatives who oversee all geographic name changes and additions



United States Board on Geographic Names - Federal authority to address name problems, name inquiries, name changes, and new name proposals




Oregon Tribes




US Geological Survey -Administers the Geographic Names Information System, GNIS, the database of all US Geographic Names

Anyone with vested interest in the name change, e.g., BLM, ODF, private land owners, etc.


TACKLING THE PROBLEM

- The Oregon Geographic Names Board voted to urge Oregon Tribes to propose replacement names
 - Tribes often don't have the resources and staff to take on the process
 - USGS Oregon Geospatial Liaison, an advisor to the OGNB, volunteered to help facilitate the process to anyone wanting assistance by providing research assistance and GIS services
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SUBMITTING A NAME CHANGE

- Anyone can submit a new name, change an existing name or apply to have name moved to a different feature
 - In Oregon, application is sent to the Oregon Geographic Names Board, OGNB, where it is reviewed
 - All interested parties contacted, land owners, government agencies, general public
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WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO SUBMIT A NAME CHANGE TO GNIS

- Proposed Name
 - GNIS Feature ID number
 - Type of feature, e.g., lake, mountain, creek, river, etc.
 - Location information, state, county, Lat/Long DMS and DD, Township Range information, maps, etc.
 - Reason for requesting change
 - Any helpful supplemental information
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WHY IS IT TAKING SO LONG TO CHANGE THE OREGON *SQUAW* NAMES?

- Process is tedious
 - Requires many man hours to collect necessary information for name change
 - All interested parties must be contacted and given an opportunity to comment on the name
 - Can take up to a year or longer to get final approval from Oregon Geographic Names Board to pass on to the US Board on Geographic Names
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**DATABASE
DESIGN:
OREGON'S
SQUAW
GEOGRAPHIC
PLACE NAMES**



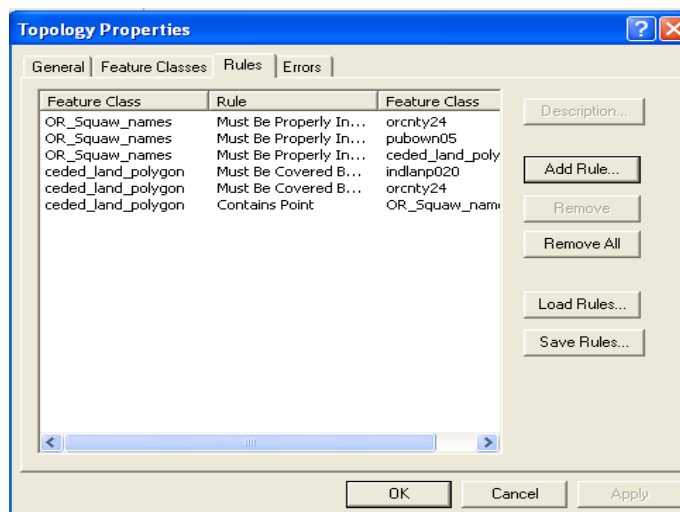
DATA LAYERS

Layer	Source
GNIS Oregon Squaw Names	GNIS
Indian ceded land	Interior Columbia Ecosystem Management Program-ICBEMP
City Limits 2007	Oregon Department of Transportation - ODOT
Highways	ODOT
Indian Lands	National Atlas - Bureau of Indian Affairs - BIA
Oregon County Boundaries	Bureau of Land Management - BLM
Public Owned Land	Oregon Department of Forestry
Oregon Waterbodies	BLM

Create Feature Dataset, Add Data Layers



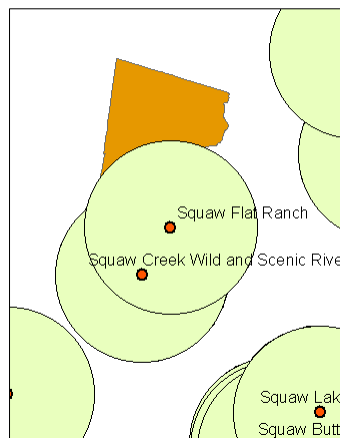
Create Database Topologies



APPLICATION OF DATABASE

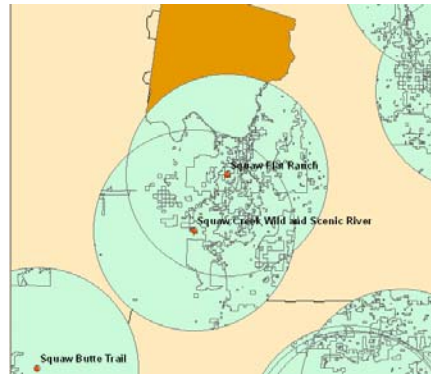


Squaw Name locations : 25 mile buffer



INTERSECT BUFFER WITH PUBLIC OWNED LANDS

- To determine who owns land where the feature exists and other parties who would need notification of name change



INTERSECT BUFFER WITH PUBLIC OWNED LANDS

- Resultant attribute table with necessary information

ID	FEATURE_NAME	CLASS	COMITY	STATE	LATDD	LONGDD	MAP	ELE_FT	LAND_OWN
1150227	Squaw Butte Trail	Trail	Lane	OR	43.744722	-122.3175	McCredie Springs	3504	United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
1138084	Big Squaw Mountain	Summit	Douglas	OR	43.140278	-122.773611	Taft Mountain	4849	Bureau of Land Management
1150227	Squaw Butte Trail	Trail	Lane	OR	43.744722	-122.3175	McCredie Springs	3504	United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
1127479	Squaw Creek	Stream	Douglas	OR	42.918899	-123.45	Nickel Mountain	866	Bureau of Land Management
1138084	Big Squaw Mountain	Summit	Douglas	OR	43.140278	-122.773611	Taft Mountain	4849	Bureau of Land Management
1127480	Squaw Creek	Stream	Douglas	OR	43.603611	-123.464167	Yellow Butte	371	Bureau of Land Management
1150227	Squaw Butte Trail	Trail	Lane	OR	43.744722	-122.3175	McCredie Springs	3504	Private
1127479	Squaw Creek	Stream	Douglas	OR	42.918899	-123.45	Nickel Mountain	866	Private
1127480	Squaw Creek	Stream	Douglas	OR	43.603611	-123.464167	Yellow Butte	371	United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
1150246	Squaw Creek	Stream	Jackson	OR	42.790278	-122.631111	Sugarpine Creek	2073	Private
1154983	Squaw Creek	Stream	Klamath	OR	42.601111	-121.946944	Agency Lake	4144	Private
1150275	Squaw Gulch	Valley	Josephine	OR	42.363056	-123.525	Selma	1066	Bureau of Land Management

Future Refinement

- Test different buffers to narrow amount of ownership
- Create model to share with other states
- Find a better Indian Lands shapefile
- Add tribal contact table
- Make a report with map template to easily disseminate information



REFERENCES

- Bright, William, 2000, The Sociolinguistics of the 'S- Word': 'Squaw' in American Placenames. available at www.ncidc.org/bright/Squaw_revised.doc
- USGS Geographic Names Information System, available at: <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/index.html>
- Vaughan, Champ C., 2008, The Oregon Geographic Names Board: One Hundred Years of Toponymic Nomenclature, *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Volume 109, Number 3: 412-433.



QUESTIONS?

