

Approved

Promulgation authorized
Executive Secretary
Domestic Geographic Names

UNITED STATES
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

CASE BRIEF (Domestic)

Mount Evans: summit; elevation 14,264 ft.; in Mount Evans Wilderness on the boundary of Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pike and San Isabel National Forests, 1.4 mi. NE of Mount Bierstadt; named for Anne Evans (1871-1941), daughter of Governor John Evans and philanthropist and patron of many cultural institutions in Colorado; Sec 26, T5S, R74W, Sixth Principal Meridian; Clear Creek County, Colorado; 39°35'18"N, 105°38'37"W; USGS map – Mount Evans 1:24,000; Not: Evans Peak, Monte Rosa, Mount Evans, Mount Rosa, Mount Rosalia, Mount Rosalie, Rosa Mountain.
https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=39.588228&p_longi=-105.643716&fid=204716

Proposal: to change the designated honoree of an existing name

Map: USGS Mount Evans 1:24,000

Proponent: Katie Sauter

Administrative area: Mount Evans Wilderness / Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests / Pike and San Isabel National Forests / Denver City and County Parks

Previous BGN Action: None

Names associated with feature:

GNIS: Mount Evans (FID 204716)

Local Usage: Mount Evans (many sources)

Published: Evans Peak (Wheeler, 1879, *Topographical Atlas*); Monte Rosa (Hart, 1925, *Fourteen Thousand Feet*); Mount Evans (USGS 1903, 1905, 1957, 1983; AMS 1953, 1957, 1958, 1960, 2011, 2013, 2016; USFS 1970, 1974, 1997, 2012, 2018; Rand McNally, 1879 and onwards; Thayer, 1880, Colorado map; Hayden, 1881, *Geological and Geographical Survey*; Adams and Son, 1887, Colorado map; Gannett, 1906; many other local, state, and national sources, both historical and current); Mount Rosa (Byers, 1890, "Bierstadt's Visit to Colorado" in *Magazine of Western History*; Hart, 1925, *Fourteen Thousand Feet*; Denver Post, 2017); Mount Rosalia (Denver Pacific Railway map, 1868); Mount Rosalie (Hart, 1925, *Fourteen Thousand Feet*; Bright, 1993, *Colorado Place Names*; Denver Post, 1987, 2017); Rosa Mountain (USGS)

Case Summary: This proposal is to change the designation of the name of Mount Evans in Clear Creek County. The summit is the fourteenth highest peak in Colorado and located in the Mount Evans Wilderness on the border of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and the Pike and San Isabel National Forests. Denver City and County Parks manages Summit Lake Park just below the summit. Colorado Parks and Wildlife manages the Mount Evans State Wildlife Area approximately eight miles east of the summit.

The proposal was submitted as a counterproposal to previous proposals to change the summit's name to Mount Soule (Review List 435), Mount Rosalie (Review List 441),

Mount Blue Sky (Review List 442), and Mount Cheyenne-Arapaho (q.v.). (An earlier proposal, to change the name to Mount Cheyenne Arapaho (Review List 432) was withdrawn by the proponent in favor of Mount Blue Sky.)

The summit's current name was given in honor of John Evans (1814-1897), the second Territorial Governor of Colorado from 1862 to 1865. The various proposals received thus far are to change the name because of Evans' part in the Sand Creek Massacre of November 29th, 1864, when U.S. Cavalry led by Colonel John Chivington attacked a village consisting of Cheyenne and Arapaho people, resulting in the deaths of between 150 and 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho, including over a dozen important tribal leaders, and an equal amount wounded.

The name Evans Peak was used by the 1879 Wheeler Survey. John Lathrop Jerome Hart, in his 1925 volume *Fourteen Thousand Feet*, reported that the name Mount Evans dates to 1870 when the name was given in a celebration in Greeley, Colorado. In 1895, the Colorado legislature resolved that the name of the summit be Mount Evans on Evans' 81st birthday, two years before his death. U.S. Geological Survey maps have used the name Mount Evans since 1903. Countless other sources have also used this name since the late 1800s.

For a more complete history of the feature and details regarding other names applied to the summit, please refer to the previous proposals.

The summit is located on land that was granted to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes by the United States in the 1851 Fort Laramie Treaty. The subsequent 1861 Fort Wise Treaty excluded the summit from Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal lands. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' present-day reservation is in western Oklahoma, while the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation resides today in Montana and the Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation (Northern Arapaho) is in Wyoming. The summit also appears to be in ancestral lands of the Ute Tribes, according to Robert W. Delaney's 1974 *The Southern Ute People*.

The proponent of this change is proposing "that the name remain the same, but is rededicated for Anne Evans. Most people who see [the mountain] and climb it do not know for whom it was named. It is likely they do not know who John Evans was. Changing the name will be costly and wouldn't the funds be better spent on educating the public about the Sand Creek Massacre? Instead, the name should be kept, but it should be rededicated for a person who is remembered for the good that she did for the state of Colorado."

Anne Evans (1871-1941) was the youngest daughter of John Evans and his wife Margaret. The proposal reads, "She never married and lived with her brother and his family at the present-day Byers-Evans House (now the Center for Colorado Women's History). She built her own cabin on the Evans Ranch and spent her summers there. She was a philanthropist and patron of many cultural institutions in Colorado, but made her

mark especially on the Denver Art Museum, the Central City Opera House, and the Denver Public Library.”

The proposal continues, “According to her biography from the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, Anne Evans ‘donated her extensive Native American Art collection [to the Denver Art Museum] which made it the first United States museum to collect Native American Art.’ Although she was the daughter of John Evans, her actions and writings indicate that she had very different opinions of Native Americans than that of her father. She came to appreciate their way of life. She worked ‘for the recognition of the art of Native Americans as art, not just colorful craftwork with which to decorate dens and recreation rooms.’ Evans raised funds for the restoration of the Central City Opera House and helped establish the Central City Opera Summer Festival in 1932. The festival still takes place every summer season. Anne Evans was appointed to the Denver Public Library Commission in 1907 and served on the Commission until 1940, resigning shortly before her death. She was the first female president of the Commission (and the only woman to serve in that role until 1987). Eight branches were built during her tenure.”

Additional information on Anne Evans can be found in Barbara Edwards Sternberg’s 2011 volume “Anne Evans--A Pioneer in Colorado’s Cultural History: The Things That Last When Gold is Gone,” and at the websites of the Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame: <https://www.cogreatwomen.org/project/anne-evans/> and the Center for Colorado Women’s History: <https://www.historycolorado.org/center-colorado-womens-history>.

Proposed by: Katie Sauter; Denver, CO
Submitted by: same
Prepared by: M. O’Donnell
Case ID: 5037
Reviewed by: J.Runyon

Date: 3/5/19
Date: same
Date: 3/28/19
Quarterly Review List: 435
Date: 4/2/19