Committee on Geographic Names

- Reviews proposals submitted by the public
- Makes recommendations to the Board on Geographic Names (BNR)
Three proposals today:

• Riley Cove, at the north end of Mercer Island in King County
• Rabbit Chase Creek, on San Juan Island
• Barney Kolker Canyon, in Spokane and Stevens counties
Riley Cove - KING COUNTY

Bay; approx. 50 acres; on the N coast of Mercer Island in Lake Washington.

The name commemorates Huston “Hu” Riley (d. 2011). Mr. Riley is the US soldier who appears in the famous "The GI in the Surf" photograph, taken on D Day June 6, 1944.

Mr. Riley lived his entire 90 year life on the cove, except when he served overseas.
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According to the proponent, many stories have been told of landowners chasing rabbits to the edge of the creek for capture and sale to meat markets in Seattle.

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Barney Koller Canyon - SPOKANE & STEVENS COUNTY

Valley; 3 mi. long, running SW to NE; located 4.3 mi. NW of Seven Mile at 47°49'37"N, 117°31'15"W; Sections 20,21,28,29,30, T27N, R42E; USGS Map - Nine Mile Falls 1:24,000.

The proposed name corrects a spelling error. According to the proponent, the feature was named in honor of Bernard "Barney" Koller, who homesteaded the area. The spelling became corrupted, and now appears as Barney Coker Canyon on USGS Maps.
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View upcoming proposals

https://www.dnr.wa.gov/about/boards-and-councils/board-natural-resources/committee-geographic-names