

**Smith Island**

*Mason County - New Name*

**Township:** 20N

**Range:** 3W

**Section:** 6

**USGS Quad:** Shelton

**Location Description:** Island, 0.08 acres. Located in the middle of Island Lake, 2 miles North of the City of Shelton.

**Proposal Summary:** Smith Island: island; 0.08 acres; located in the middle of Island Lake 2 miles North of the City of Shelton; named for Bill Smith who acquired the island on April 19, 1955 and transferred the island to the Island Lake Foundation in 2011 prior to his death on December 11, 2011; Mason County, Washington; T20N, R3W, Section 6 Willamette Meridian; 47°14'54.851"N, 123°6'53.441"W USGS map – Shelton 1:24,000.

Smith Island: island; 0.08 acres; located in the middle of Island Lake 2 miles North of the City of Shelton; named for Bill Smith who acquired the island on April 19, 1955 and transferred the island to the Island Lake Foundation in 2011 prior to his death on December 11, 2011; Mason County, Washington; T20N, R3W, Section 6 Willamette Meridian; 47°14'54.851"N, 123°6'53.441"W

The proposal is for an unnamed island located in the middle of Island Lake, 2 miles North of the City of Shelton. Name would commemorate Bill Smith who acquired the island in 1955, and transferred the island to the Island Lake Foundation prior to his death on December 11, 2011. The Island Lake Foundation has been involved in fighting the erosion of the island, and Mason County passed a resolution supporting the proposed name in March of 2017.

**Proponent:**

Stephen Whitehouse

PO Box 1273

Shelton, WA 98584

**Proposal Received:** 9/21/2017

**Initial Consideration:** 10/31/2017

**Final Consideration:** 6/20/2018

**WA Committee Decision:** Approved

**WA Board Decision:**

**US Board Decision:**

**Opinions:**

WASHINGTON STATE  
Geographic Name Application



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**

Proposed Name: Smith Island

New Name

County: Mason

Controversial Name

Township: 20N Range: 3W Section(s): 6

Name Change

Lat. 47° 14' 54" N, Long. 123° 6' 54" W (Begin)

Location Clarification

Lat. \_\_\_\_\_ N, Long. \_\_\_\_\_ W (End)

Spelling Clarification

**Description**

Type of feature (lake, stream, etc.): Small island (.05 acres)

Description of feature (location, length, depth, height, size and/or area covered): A small island, roughly 110' x 40' in Island Lake in Mason County, Washington. Height is 1-2' above OHW

If a stream, number of months it flows on a yearly basis: None

Is this feature identified by other names or spellings? Please list variant names: \_\_\_\_\_

Has it ever been signed, posted, or publicized? If so, when? Yes. See attached resolution of the Mason County Commissioners,

**History**

*Please provide a brief history of the feature and its immediate surroundings, this might include information on the following: 1 Native American; 2 First settlers; 3 Historical background pertinent to feature; 4 History on how the land is/was used; 5 Natural disasters (floods, fires, etc.) 6 Any significant cultural events. If appropriate, geology, flora and fauna. Cite sources. Use additional pages if needed.*

Origin of name: See resolution of Mason County Commissioners, attached.

If a commemorative name, provide a brief summary of the ENTIRE life of the person including how and the length of time he/she was associated with the proposed feature: Bill Smith was a long time resident of Mason County. He was a local electrical contractor. He acquired the island in 1955, but then transferred it to the Island Lake Foundation in 2011, shortly prior to his death on December 11, 2011. His purpose in transferring the island to the Foundation was to perpetuate its use by the community and to allow for its restration,

# Justification of Proposed Name

What is the usage of feature? Community recreation

Please state why the proposed name will best serve the public interest: to recognize Bill Smith's gift to the community.

How long has the proposed name been in use? By whom? It has been known as such by local residents going back to recent memory.

Please list all sources of information used for your research: (maps, books, articles, periodicals, etc. for background history relating to proposed name) local anecdotal knowledge

What type of support is there for the proposed name?

List all groups and persons who are familiar with the proposed feature and its usage. Please provide names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and his/her association with knowledge of the geographic feature:

Past and present residents at Island Lake too numerous to list. Mason County Commissioners. Current Island Lake Foundation Board Members.

## Application submitted by:

Name: Stephen Whitehouse  
Address: PO Box 1273 City: Shelton, State: WA Zip: 98584  
Phone #: 360-426-5885 Email: SWHITE8893@aol.com Date of Application: 9-19-17

I am aware that all information submitted is considered to be public information.

Printed Name: Stephen Whitehouse  
Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 9-19-17

Please mail completed form along with copies of any additional materials to:

**WA State Board on Geographic Names**

**PO Box 47030**

**Olympia, WA 98504-7030**

(Phone: 360-902-1280 - Fax: 360-902-1778 - Email: [bogn@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:bogn@dnr.wa.gov))



# The Island Lake Foundation

September 20, 2017

Committee on Geographic Names  
Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 47030  
Olympia, WA 98506-7030

Re: Smith Island

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a board member of Island Lake Foundation. Our purpose has been to take title to, and to restore the island at Island Lake and to permit it to be a continuing recreational resource for the community.

Bill Smith owned the island from 1955 until 2011, when he transferred it to our foundation prior to his death a few months later. The island has been used for recreation by community members for decades, but was being eroded away by wave action.

A once lush island was in danger of disappearing.

With over \$15,000 in donations from dozens of local residents, and the efforts of many more, the Island has been restored. The assistance of Mason County and the Department of Fish and Wildlife have been very helpful in seeing this project to completion.

Our foundation was hoping to have Bill Smith's generosity recognized by having the island's local name of Smith Island become official.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN WHITEHOUSE,  
Attorney at Law

The Island Lake Foundation Board Members,  
all longtime residents of Island Lake

James Sawyer, retired Mason County Superior Court Judge  
2160 E Island Lake Dr.  
Shelton, WA 98584  
360-463-0044  
[sawyer3580@msn.com](mailto:sawyer3580@msn.com)

Max Folsom, retired chemist  
330 E Island Lake Dr.  
Shelton, WA 98584  
360-426-8043  
[maxfolsom@comcast.net](mailto:maxfolsom@comcast.net)

Jef Conklin, real estate broker Windemere  
1720 E Island Lake Dr.  
Shelton, WA 98584  
360-280-0874  
[jef@hctc.com](mailto:jef@hctc.com)

Stephen Whitehouse, Attorney, Whitehouse & Nichols, LLP  
1620 E Island Lake Dr.  
Shelton, WA 98584  
360-426-5885  
[SWHITE8893@aol.com](mailto:SWHITE8893@aol.com)

RESOLUTION NO. 11-17

SUPPORTING THE OFFICIAL NAMING OF SMITH ISLAND AT ISLAND LAKE

**WHEREAS**, there exists within Island Lake in Mason County a small, officially unnamed, island of approximately one-tenth of an acre in size; and

**WHEREAS**, ON April 19, 1955, title to the Island was acquired by William and Mary Smith, who allowed this community to use the island for all to enjoy; and

**WHEREAS**, over the years, due to wind and wave action, the island has eroded and degraded significantly; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to his death on December 11, 2011, William Smith, Mary having predeceased him, transferred the island to the Island Lake Foundation so that it could be restored and preserved, and so it could continue to be a source of enjoyment for the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Island Lake Foundation has restored the island with overwhelming support from the community in the form of donations from present and past residents at the lake, totaling in excess of \$15,000, and the significant effort of many others, including, but not limited to, Manke Lumber Company, Taylor Shellfish Farms, Inc., Dan Ireland of SCJ Alliance, Rob Goodwin of Island Johnny, Bucky Manke of Manke Excavating, Jared Hanson of Hanson Excavating, Dan Holman of Holman and Associates, Lee Boad of the Wetland Corporation, James Metcalf of Active Underground, Craig Pettyjohn of Pettyjohn Enterprises, Tim Sheldon of Sheldon Properties, Robert Olsen of Olsen Trucking and Frank Pascher of Pascher Construction ;and

**WHEREAS**, Mason County and the State of Washington joined in this effort with their assistance and cooperation, most notably from Grace Miller of the Mason County Planning Department, and Gloria Rogers of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, in donating this island to the use of the citizens of Mason County, the only thing Bill Smith asked for is that the island, which has come to be known over the years as Smith Island, be so officially named.

**NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, the Mason County Board of Commissioners, while recognizing it does not have the legal authority to officially name geographical features, does hereby recognize the island at Island Lake to be known in the community as Smith Island, and does hereby support and join in any effort to have the island officially named Smith Island.

APPROVED this 21<sup>st</sup> Day of March, 2017.


BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS MASON  
COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

  
Melissa Drewry, Clerk of the Board

  
Tim Whitehead, Chief DPA

  
Kevin Shutty, Chair

  
Terri Jeffries, Vice-Chair

  
Randy Neatherlin, Commissioner





Journal photo by Gordon Weeks  
**Volunteers and Taylor Shellfish employees last Friday unload huge cedar logs onto the island in the middle of Island Lake. The logs, gravel and 900 new plants and trees will restore the shrinking island.**

# Raising a sinking island

*Island Lake residents team up to restore eroding sanctuary*

By GORDON WEEKS  
 gordon@masoncounty.com

**F**or decades, a tiny circle of trees in the middle of Island Lake has been a "Huckleberry Finn"-like sanctuary for local youths.

"All the kids who grew up here camped out there, hung out out there," said longtime lake resident Jef Conklin. "It's where you went to get away from your parents."

Island Lake resident Max Folsom first set foot on the island in 1962.

"It was a nice place to come out and sit in the grass," recalls Folsom, who bought a house on the lake eight years ago.

But residents of the 109-acre lake north of downtown Shelton have watched the island shrink. Waves have eaten away the dirt and gravel shorelines.

"It's eroded badly over the years. ... It's a combination of weather, but primarily from the advent of wakeboarding," Conklin said. "They throw huge waves."

During the winter, only a small stretch of grass rises above



Photo courtesy of Jef Conklin  
**Island Lake residents remember when the island was covered with trees. But waves have eroded the shores and toppled many of the trees.**

the water line.

"I've never met anyone on the lake who didn't say, 'When are we going to do something about the island?'" Folsom said.

That time is now.

Undoubtedly, homeowners on the lake today are using telescopes and binoculars to watch an amazing transformation that began last Friday.

Working from a 50-foot barge, volunteers are adding huge cedar logs, root wads and gravel to elevate the island. They will

then introduce 900 plants and trees, including red osier dogwood, Oregon ash, Sitka and Pacific willow.

No government money is paying for the monumental project. The island's revival is propelled entirely by donations of money, time and materials.

Taylor Shellfish donated the use of the barge and employees. SCJ Alliance contributed the engineering time and construction

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# Island: Volunteers helping transport logs to 'Smith Island'

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design, and Manke Lumber gave them the logs. Mason County Commissioner Tim Sheldon donated gravel. Lake residents handed over money.

A year after the island gets a facelift, it might receive an official name: Smith Island.

Island Lake resident Bill Smith bought the island in April 1955.

Conklin, who grew up on the lake and then returned as an adult, said he offered to buy the island from Smith for years. So did Folsom.

"I'd say, 'You wanna sell it? I got a dollar for it!'" Folsom recalled with a laugh. But one day, Smith told him, "You've got to get serious because I won't be around much longer."

Smith offered to donate the island to the community — if the island would be named after him. The land was turned over to the new Island Lake Foundation in March 2011; Smith died nine months later.

According to state naming laws, the name Smith Island can be made official five years after his death.

For the project, the Island Lake Foundation secured permits from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Mason County Planning Department and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife. The restoration is expected to be completed in October.

On Friday, the volunteers and two Taylor Shellfish employees transported the huge logs to the island to build a foundation at the landing. One of the Taylor Shellfish employees was Zack Crow, whose family has been a presence on the island for six decades

— his grandparents owned a house there, and that's where his father grew up.

Crow recalls swimming to the island for the first time at age 13, a rite of passage for local kids.

"It slowly started sinking over the years," he said. "It was green — and more alive."

On the island, Folsom pointed out the spot where kids swung from a rope into the water.

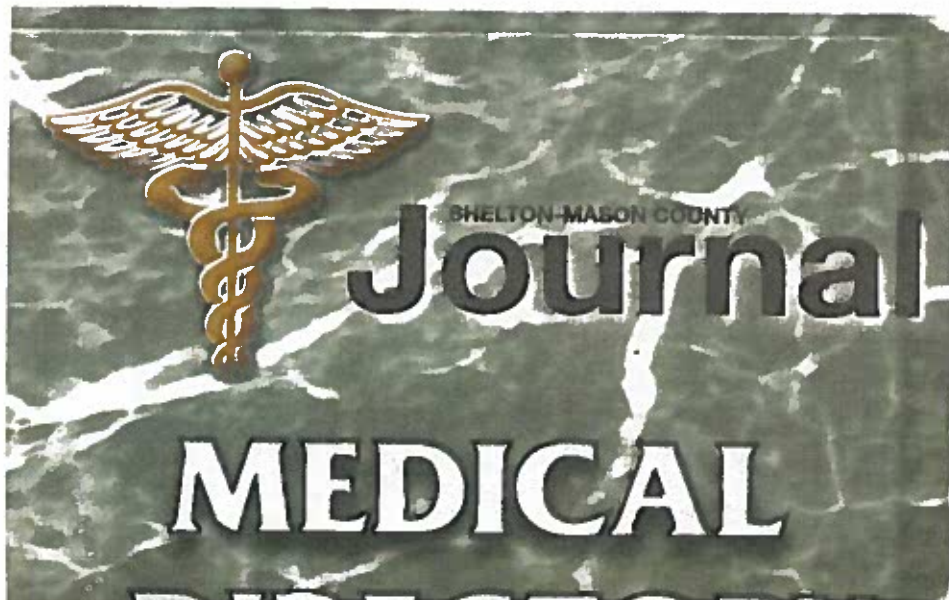
"Now the rope swing is gone, and the log is in the water, and (the shore) is being severely undercut," he said.

No track equipment or tires are allowed on any part of the island. Folsom pulled on a rope to keep the barge near shore as the logs were maneuvered onto the beach.

"These cedar logs won't rot for 70 or 80 years," Folsom said.

Conklin said he wants generations of kids to enjoy the island, just as he had.

"It all means something to all of us," he said. "It was the place to hang out and smoke cigarettes. ... When our parents couldn't find us, they knew where we were."




**Journal**  
MEDICAL

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**DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
PO Box 47030  
Olympia, WA 98504-7030

**360-902-1280**  
[BOGN@DNR.WA.GOV](mailto:BOGN@DNR.WA.GOV)  
[WWW.DNR.WA.GOV](http://WWW.DNR.WA.GOV)

November 2, 2017

Stephen Whitehouse  
PO Box 1273  
Shelton, WA 98584

Dear Stephen Whitehouse,

Your proposal to name **Smith Island** is scheduled for its final hearing before the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names on **June 2018** in Olympia.

Proposed names may receive two or more hearings before the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names. Meetings are usually held twice a year. At the first meeting, the Committee decides whether or not to consider the name, and at the second, the Committee makes a decision to approve, deny, or defer the proposed name.

In the intervening months, the Committee staff solicits opinions and comments from historical societies, county officials, federal agencies, mountaineering clubs, and any other group or person who can provide information or an informed opinion on the proposal. The Committee uses this information to make a decision according to guidelines previously established by the Committee.

If there is additional pertinent information (names and addresses of longtime residents, property owners adjacent to the feature, or historical information to help us in our research) beyond what is provided in the Geographic Name Application, please let me know at your earliest convenience.

You are welcome to attend the hearing on your proposal, and will be given an opportunity to make a statement or provide information or clarification at that time. An agenda for the next Committee on Geographic Names meeting will be mailed to you prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions or additional information to convey, please call me at (360) 902-1280, or email me at [caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caleb Maki".

Caleb Maki, Executive Secretary  
Washington Committee on Geographic Names  
PO Box 47030  
Olympia, WA 98504-7030  
(360) 902-1280  
[caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov)



**DEPARTMENT OF  
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**COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
PO Box 47030  
Olympia, WA 98504-7030

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WWW.DNR.WA.GOV

September 22, 2017

Stephen Whitehouse  
PO Box 1273  
Shelton, WA 98584

Dear Stephen Whitehouse,

Your proposal to name **Smith Island** is scheduled for its *initial* hearing with the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names on **10/31/2017** in Olympia. At this time the Committee will decide whether or not to accept your proposed name for consideration. If accepted, the name will then come up for discussion and final decision at subsequent hearing(s) to follow. At the time of the hearing(s), you may wish to be present and speak for your proposal, but attendance is not a requirement.

Between the initial and final hearings, the merits of your proposal will be researched and comments on the proposal from the local historical societies, county governments, state and federal land management agencies, and interested groups and individuals who have some knowledge of the area will be solicited. If there are longtime local residents or adjacent property owners in the area whose addresses you could provide, I will be glad to request their comments as well.

If I can answer any further questions, please call me at (360) 902-1280, or email me at [caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Caleb Maki, Executive Secretary  
Washington Committee on Geographic Names  
P.O. Box 47030  
Olympia, WA 98504-7030  
(360) 902-1280  
[caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov)



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October 9, 2018

Stephen Whitehouse  
PO Box 1273  
Shelton, WA 98584

Dear Mr. Whitehouse,

I apologize for the delay in sending this letter, but at the **June 20, 2018** meeting of the Washington State Committee on Geographic Names, the Committee voted to send your application to name **Smith Island** located in **Mason County** to the Washington State Board on Geographic Names with the Committee's recommendation to approve.

All information on your proposal will be forwarded to the Washington State Board on Geographic Names for their consideration at a future meeting.

When the Board selects a date to hear your proposal, a letter will be sent to you informing you of the date and time your proposal will be heard.

If you have any questions, please call me at (360) 902-1280 or email me at [caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov).

Thank you for your interest in geographic names.

Sincerely,

Caleb Maki, Executive Secretary  
Washington Committee on Geographic Names  
P.O. Box 47030  
Olympia, WA 98504-7030  
(360) 902-1280  
[caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:caleb.maki@dnr.wa.gov)

# SMITH ISLAND - MASON COUNTY



The proposal is for an unnamed island located in the middle of Island Lake, 2 miles North of the City of Shelton.

Name would commemorate Bill Smith who acquired the island in 1955, and transferred the island to the Island Lake Foundation prior to his death on December 11, 2011.

The Island Lake Foundation has been involved in fighting the erosion of the island, and Mason County passed a resolution supporting the proposed name in March of 2017.

