



**Council of Geographic Names Authorities
COGNA 2025
Golden, Colorado**

"Reckoning with Historic Place Names from Peaks to Prairies"

Conference Dates
August 18 – 21st

**Hosted by the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board
at the Denver West Marriott
1717 Denver West Marriott Blvd.
Golden, CO 80401**



Welcome to CoGNA – Golden 2025!

We thank you for joining us this year at CoGNA – in beautiful Golden, Colorado! We are indebted to our wonderful hosts on the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board, who have worked for many months to help organize this conference at the Denver West Marriott and share their beautiful state with all of us!

CoGNA is both a very large and simultaneously very small organization; we comprise state geographical representation from every state (and now territories), but that means usually less than 50 of us are having a conversation at any given time. We are working to ensure ALL 50 of states and participating territories are connected, and part of the national dialogue with regard to place name issues, and you being here and part of this conference is the foundation of growing this dialogue.

CoGNA works best if you are active in the organization. Please work with your own boards, local governments, and interested parties to ensure they are aware of CoGNA, and pass on the information learned at or through CoGNA to those you work with at the state and regional level(s). Many states have been active in the COGNA organization during the last year, with connections being made, requests for help and information shared, and general discussions over email is now happening – all a result of simply (re)connecting in this forum. We are glad you are here, happy to reconnect, and welcome you to what we hope will be many more annual meetings in the future.

I serve as the Executive Secretary for CoGNA, elected in November of 2021, and effective January of 2022, but ‘found’ CoGNA originally back in 2015 – when searching “geography conferences” online. When I arrived at the conference and realized what CoGNA was (and that my own state had not been active in years), I was quite surprised to realize I was an active member in this organization that I had never heard of until then. Since 2015, I’ve hosted and attended the subsequent conferences – many times on my own time and funding – just because the information and the networking is so helpful and meaningful. It is my hope that ALL states and territories will eventually be funded to perform the work they do as State Names Authorities (SNAs), which includes traveling to this conference to continue our conversations, learn from our colleagues in other states and within the USBGN, and build our networks of support, and broaden our connections with our Tribal communities and other stakeholders. Please share the information with your boards, your networks, and communities; be sure CoGNA is part of the institutional knowledge of your state teams, and let’s keep this growing – and going!

It is my sincere pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Annual Conference of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities. Thank you for the important work you do, and for joining us for what promises to be a productive, engaging, and memorable conference.

Kindest regards,

Christine Johnson
Executive Secretary, CoGNA
ckjohnson@cogna50usa.org
ckjohnson.nevada@gmail.com

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Monday, August 18th

Registration, COGNA Business, Opening Reception

Location: Keystone/Telluride Room

Noon – 3:00pm: Registration Desk Open
2:45 – 3:00pm: Housekeeping/Online Connections
3:00 – 4:00pm: COGNA Business Meeting (open to all)
4:00 – 5:00pm: Special Session: Lifetime Achievement Award
(Wayne Furr 2024 & Jenny Runyon 2025)
5:00 – 7:30pm: Welcome Reception: (No host bar, Hors de 'oeuvres)
Keynote Speaker: TBA

Tuesday, August 19th

Opening remarks, Presentations, Federal training, Business meeting

Location: Keystone/Telluride Room

8:30 - 9:00am: Registration and packet pick up. Location: Lobby of Keystone/Telluride Room
9:00 – 9:15am: Housekeeping, announcements, opening blessing
9:15 – 9:30am: Introductions and Opening Remarks, Chair of Colorado Geographic Advisory Board and Christine Johnson, COGNA
9:30 – 10:15am: Speaker?
10:15-10:30am: Break
10:30 – 11:15am: **Lecture**
Noon – 1:30pm: Lunch on your own
1:30 – 2:15pm: ***“Introduction to U.S. Geological Survey Map Ready Data” - Marcelle Caturia,***
Dynamic Mapping Specialist, USGS National Geographic Technical Operations Center
2:15 – 3:15pm: **James Kari, Linguist & Professor Emeritus, University of Alaska Fairbanks.**
3:15 – 3:30pm: Break
3:30 – 4:30pm: **Lecture**
4:30pm: Q&A for the day, Announcements, Daily Wrap-up, Evening Preparations

Optional evening Event: Join members of the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board for an evening event (TBA)

Wednesday, August 20th

Executive Committee Meeting, State Naming Authorities Reports, Federal-State Roundtable Q&A's, Training

Location: Center for Missouri Studies (605 Elm Street)

- 8:30 – 9:00am: Registration and Packet pick up. Location: Lobby of Keystone/Telluride Room
- 9:00 – 9:15am: **CoGNA 2026 Announcement** (Someone from CA Geographic Naming Advisory Board)
- 9:15am – 10:45am: **US Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) Meeting** (subject to change)
- 10:45 – 11:00am: Break
- 11:00 – Noon: **Training Session for State Naming Authorities (SNAs)**
- Noon - 1:30pm: Lunch on your own
- 1:30 - 2:00pm: **Training Session for SNAs**
- 2:00 – 3:15pm: **Training Session for SNAs: *Federal/State Roundtable Workshop***
- 3:15 – 3:30pm: Break
- 3:30 – 4:30pm: **Training Session for SNAs: *Federal/State Roundtable Workshop* (cont'd)**

Optional Evening Event: Join members of the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board for an evening event (TBA)

Thursday, August 21st

Toponymic Session

Location: Meet at 8:00am outside the Denver West Marriott Hotel

8:30am-5:00pm: Toponymic Session

Coach bus trip to sites of interest:

Join Colorado Geographic Advisory Board members on a toponymic session as they share information on historic names and places in this historic region including Argo Gold Mill, Idaho Springs, Echo Lake Lodge, Mount Blue Sky and more.

****Requires registration for the toponymic session – be sure to register for *full conference with toponymic session* at initial registration, or register separately on the website for any additional attendees. Registration for toponymic session can be made as individual reservation as well at conference registration site. Register at (site link to come) or contact Christine Johnson at ckjohnson@cogna50usa.org for more information. Reservations for this session must be made prior to 8/1/2025.**

Poster Session

U.S. Geological Survey Map Ready Data – How to Display Multi-Scale Name Labels to Make Better Maps

Marcelle Caturia

Dynamic Mapping Specialist, Cartographic Applied Research Section (CARS)

USGS National Geographic Technical Operations Center (NGTOC) – Denver

Poster Abstract: Map Ready Data (MRD) is a concept to cartographically enable data that allows the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to improve its topographic map cartographic quality and production efficiency. MRD is expanding to an automated data preparation platform that enables geographic names to use enriched content and generalization rules in support of their accurate display at appropriate map scales. For example, how to best determine which place names, sourced from the USGS Geographic Names Information System, remain labeled on a topographic map when it is zoomed out from 1:24,000 to 1:100,000 map scale? This poster illustrates how these new enrichments and rules can be used to improve the cartographic quality of USGS topographic maps.

Presentation Abstracts

Introduction to U.S. Geological Survey Map Ready Data Marcelle Caturia

Map Ready Data (MRD) is a concept to cartographically enable data that allows the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to improve its topographic map cartographic quality and production efficiency. MRD is expanding to an automated data preparation platform that enables geographic names to use enriched content and generalization rules in support of their accurate display at appropriate map scales. For example, how to best determine which place names, sourced from the USGS Geographic Names Information System, remain labeled on a topographic map when it is zoomed out from 1:24,000 to 1:100,000 map scale? This presentation introduces these new enrichments and rules and details how they can be used to improve the cartographic quality of USGS topographic maps.

Nineteen Ahtna Place Names for officially unnamed features in and around Glacial Lake Atna James Kari

Abstract Forthcoming

Presenter Biographies

Marcelle Caturia

Marcelle Caturia is a Dynamic Mapping Specialist with the USGS National Geographic Technical Operations Center (NGTOC) in Denver, working in the Cartographic Applied Research Section (CARS).

Holli Howard

Holli Howard is the Geospatial Industry Lead for Google Maps. She serves as a member on the National Geospatial Advisory Committee, and engages with the United Nations frequently on related topics.

James Kari

James Kari is a linguist and Professor Emeritus with the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) specializing in the Dene (a.k.a. Athabascan languages) of Alaska. He served on the faculty of UAF from 1973 to his retirement in 1997. Kari continues to work on numerous Alaska Native language projects. He is the author or editor of more than 200 publications, including more than 4000 pages of bilingual texts in seven Dene languages. He is the most prolific contributor to the Alaska Native Language Archive (with more than 1000 entries as of 2019). His special interest is Dene ethnogeography. Kari has compiled or documented more than 14,000 place names in fourteen Alaska or Canadian Dene languages.

Future Hosts of COGNA

- 2026 – Sacramento, California
- 2027 – Salt Lake City, Utah
- 2028 – Fargo, North Dakota
- 2029 – Lake Tahoe, Nevada

CoGNA 2025 – Colorado would like to thank the following
for their generosity and support:



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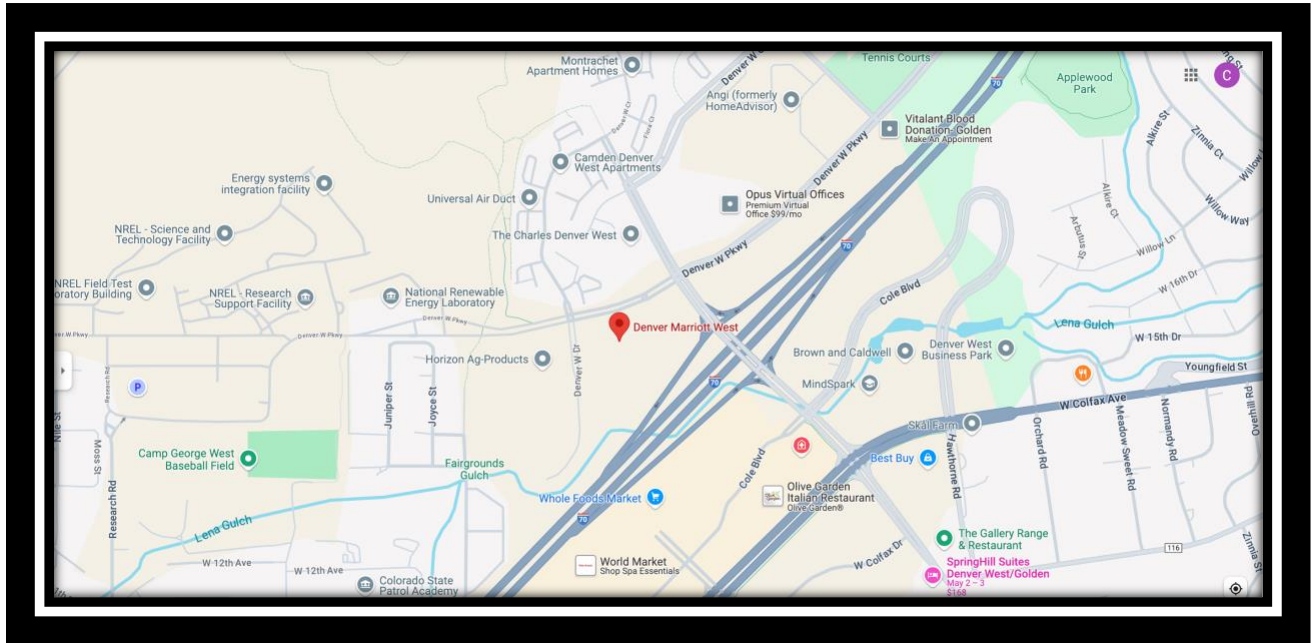


Map and Parking Directions

The Denver West Marriott Hotel is in Golden, Colorado at
1717 Denver West Marriott Blvd

Room Reservations can be made [HERE](#)

See map below for more information.



PHYSICAL ADDRESS

Denver West Marriott Hotel
1717 Denver West Marriott Blvd.
Golden, CO 80401

Parking

There is plenty of free parking around the conference site and hotel area.