



Approved, 09/15/2023

Pending Virginia Place Name Proposal before the Domestic Names Committee, USBGN

**Change Pine Mountain to Piney Mountain**

**Proposal Information**

Proposed name	<b>Piney Mountain</b>
Proposal type	change name to recognize local and historic use
Current official name	Pine Mountain
GNIS ID	<a href="#">1496198</a>
Proponent	David H. Klaus; Luray, VA
Date proposed	12/2/22
Submitter	same
Date submitted	same
BGN case number	5925

**Feature Details**

Primary coordinates	38.660385, -78.385115
Secondary coordinates	n/a
Feature class	summit
Feature size	elevation 1,828 feet
Feature description	Located partly within Shenandoah National Park, between Pass Run and North Fork Dry Run on the W side of the Blue Ridge E of Luray
USGS primary topo map	Luray
State(s)	Virginia
County(s)	Page County
Land ownership	private / NPS

**BGN decisions**

- Pine Mountain (BGN 1933)

**Other Names**

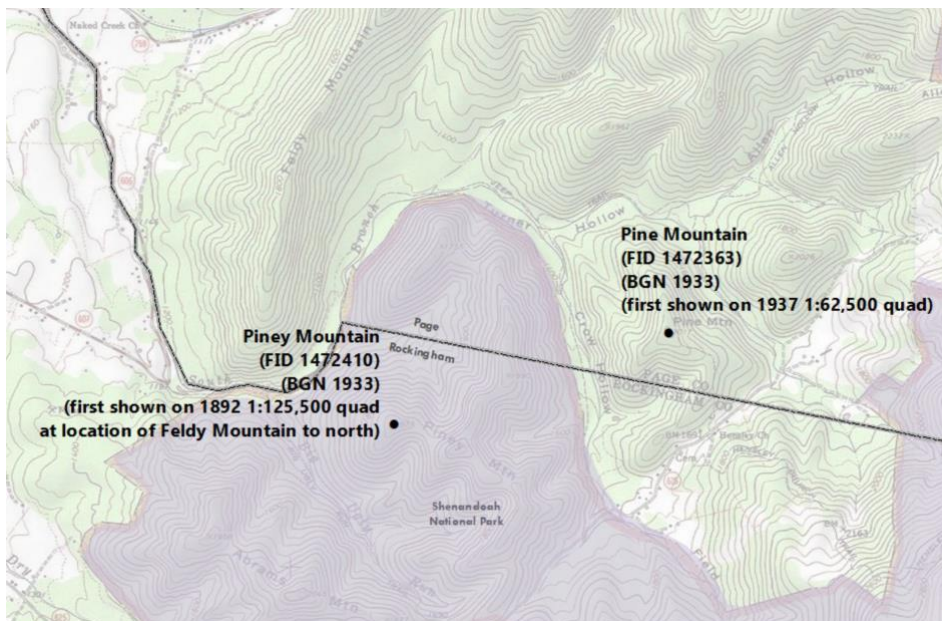
- Unpublished names:
  - Piney Mountain: historical and local use, reported by proponent
- Published names:
  - Pine Mountain: USGS 1933, 1965, 1986, 1994
  - Piney Mountain: U.S. Public Law 86-775, 1960; *An Atlas of Shenandoah and Page Counties, Virginia*, 1885; land deeds 1886, 1890 [provided by proponent]

## Case Summary

This proposal is to change the name of Pine Mountain (BGN 1933), located between Luray and Thornton Gap in Page County, to Piney Mountain. The summit is partly in Shenandoah National Park.

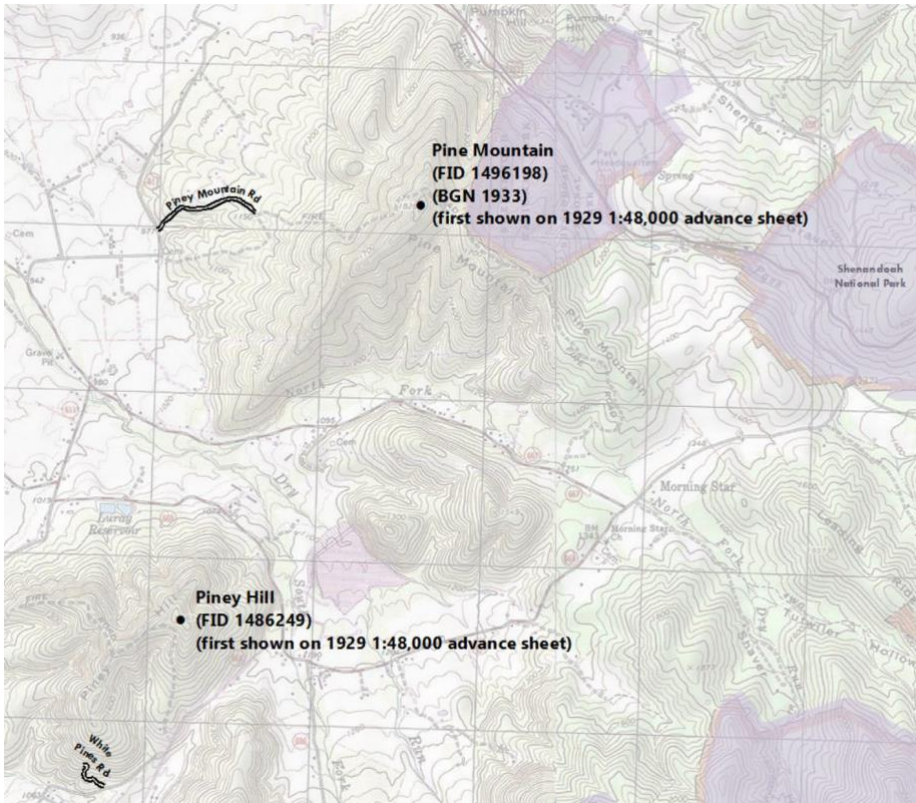
The proponent, who lives on the southwestern edge of the summit, is proposing that the BGN “restore the correct historical legal name to this geological feature.” He states that Piney Mountain is shown in historical records and in his property’s land deeds from 1886 and 1890 and that “[r]esidents even today call the mountain ‘Piney Mountain’ and not ‘Pine Mountain’ (a name locals consider wrong).” He also states, “It seems likely the current name is a typographical error when the USGS database was first created (typist failed to type the ‘y’ at the end of the name).” Piney Mountain Road is located on the western side of the mountain.

The name Pine Mountain was a 1933 BGN decision for the summit in question. The decision card notes that Pine Mountain was shown on “U.S. Geol. Survey map of ‘Proposed Shenandoah National Park’ sheet 4, 1927-1929” and that the locally used name based on a “field c[hec]k” was Pine Mountain. At the same 1933 meeting, the BGN also approved the names Pine Mountain for a 2,100-foot summit in southern Page County and Piney Mountain for a 2,076-foot summit in adjacent Rockingham County. Both of these names were also shown on the “Proposed Shenandoah National Park” maps and are about 18 miles southwest of the summit in question.



### Pine Mountain (FID 1472363) (BGN 1933) and Piney Mountain (FID 1472410) (BGN 1933)

The name Pine Mountain for the summit in question was first shown on the [1929 advance sheet copy of the USGS 1:48,000-scale Stone Man quadrangle](#). The name Piney Hill was shown for a summit 1.8 miles to the southwest but was not a BGN decision. These names have been consistently shown on large-scale USGS maps beginning in 1933.



**Pine Mountain (FID 1496198) (BGN 1933) and Piney Hill (FID 1486249)**

A ridge named [Piney Mountain](#) in Page County was first shown on a 1967 1:24,000-scale USGS map and is located 12 miles southwest of the summit in question.

Public Law 86-775, passed in 1960, used the name [Piney Mountain](#) for the summit in reference to a Shenandoah National Park property exchange. The Park’s headquarters is located on a parcel of Park land on the northeastern slope of the mountain.

Henry Gannett’s 1904 *The Gazetteer of Virginia* reported a [Piney Mountain](#) in Page County with an elevation of 1,500 feet. None of the summits in Page County with “Pine” or “Piney” in their names have a similar elevation, so it is unclear which summit this refers to.

**Stakeholder Input**

Local government	Page County
State Names Authority	Virginia Board on Geographic Names
Federal Agency	National Park Service
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

Source: Quarterly Review List 450, Released February 6, 2023 (<https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-geographic-names/dnc-review-lists>)