



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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March 7, 2007

Don Schmitz
P.O. Box 94
Fifield, WI 54524-0094

Subject: Proposed Lake Name Change, Located in T40N, R3E, Sections 4, 9, 10

Dear Mr. Schmitz:

We are happy to inform you that the Wisconsin Geographic Names council has approved your request to change the name of Cochram Lake to Cochran Lake, at their October 10, 2006 meeting. There was sufficient evidence showing a typographical error had occurred.

If you have any questions, please contact Kate Fitzgerald at: (608) 267-2764.

Sincerely,

Laurie J. Osterndorf
Administrator, Division of Land

LJO:kf

CC: Jean Gottwald, Price County Clerk
Sally Putnam, Town of Fifield Clerk
Jenny Runyon, USGS

Cochran –vs- Cochram

It has been a longstanding argument as to what the true name of our lake is. I have seen some maps that call the lake Cochran and some call it Cochram.

Area in question: Sections 4,9,10 of Town 40, Range 3E

Information obtained so far:

Department of Natural Resources (Park Falls, WI Skip Sommerfelt)

The DNR office in Park Falls has Survey maps from 1939 that show the lake name as Cochran Lake.

Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (Rob Nurre, Land Records Manager)

The original public land surveyor for Township 40 North, Range 3 East, Alexander Anderson in 1865, did not record any name for the lake.

Register of Deeds (Philips, WI)

1924 No name on Lake
1950 Plat Book name of lake is Cochran
1978 Plat Book name of lake is Cochram
1993 Plat Map show name as Cochram

Price County Historical Society (Karen Baumgarter, Curator Committee)

1892 Plat book Secondary information has G. COCHRAN owning land: Sec. 10 Twp. 39 Range 1 West

1920 George F. Cram Co. Printers, Chicago, Illinois Plat Book of Price County, Wisconsin lists the following:
Cochran land:

Surname	Given Name	Section	Township	Range
COCHRAN	Edgar H.	28	36N	3E
COCHRAN	Edgar H.	29	36N	3E
COCHRAN	M.N.	3	40N	1W
COCHRAN LAKE		9	40N	3E

Wisconsin Land Patents Database: Price County

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) inherited the functions of the General Land Office when it was established by Congress in 1946. The Wisconsin Land Patents Database, Derived from General Land Office and BLM information, contains deeds (primarily patents) issued by the United States in the region now known as the State of Wisconsin between 1807 and 1907.

Patent Name	Section	Township	Range	Acre	LO Code	Doc #	Sign Date
COCHRAN DAVID C	28	40N	2E	80	14	15973	02/10/1882
COCHRAN SAMUEL	36	40N	1E	40	03	6559	07/24/1890
COCHRAN SAMUEL	36	40N	1W	40	03	6559	04/04/1894

WI Land Offices (LO Code)

- 01 Ashland
- 02 Bayfield
- 03 Eau Claire
- 04 Falls St. Croix
- 05 Green Bay
- 06 Hudson
- 07 La Crosse
- 08 Menasha
- 09 Milwaukee

- 10 Mineral Point
- 11 Muskaday
- 12 Stevens Point
- 13 Superior
- 14 Wausau
- 15 Willow River
- 16 Wisconsin

In speaking with Jack Wierzba, Town of Fifield board-supervisor wife Avis, she was able to verify the names of the individuals listed above as family members. It turns out that her Grandfathers family "Cochran" owned a large portion of the land surrounding Cochran Lake that was used for logging.

Summary:

In searching for information about Cochran Lake I have found no reference to the name Cochram in earlier dated material. It only shows up well after 1950 when at some point the lake name was changed or mistyped and has continued since then.