



**Oregon**  
John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

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CITY OF  
YACHATS

May 14, 2014

To the Mayor and City Council of Yachats,

*This is a status update to my letter of April 23<sup>rd</sup>. It also corrects my reference to the 1984 quad map as "1986".*

Sandy Rutherford, a resident of Yachats, called me on April 7 regarding the location and symbology used to represent a creek (Gender Creek) near her house. She believed it to be in the wrong location on the U.S. Geological Survey (U.S.G.S.) topographic map and symbolized incorrectly as intermittent when she has observed water in it year around. She contacted me, since our agency maintains the National Hydrography Dataset<sup>1</sup> (NHD) on behalf of the State of Oregon in partnership with other state and federal agencies in the region. The NHD is used by the U.S.G.S. to represent lakes and streams on the current generation of topo maps.

I conferred with the person in our office who is tasked with making edits to the NHD. We looked at [Google Street view](#)<sup>2</sup> and high-resolution elevation data for the area, and it appears that Gender Creek does indeed flow under U.S. 101 where Sandy indicated. I did a little more digging through the [U.S.G.S.](#)<sup>3</sup> archive and their 1956 topo map is in agreement. I'm not sure why the 1984 and 2011 1:24,000-scale topo maps for Yachats differ from the 1956 map (portion of 1956 map shown in Figure 1; and same area from the 1984 map in Figure 2).

We corroborated the location with imagery and high-resolution elevation data and submitted the course change to our Hydrographers for review. The Hydrographers concurred with our assessment and we have corrected the location of the stream in the NHD.

We also submitted the periodicity (flow type) classification change request to our Hydrographers and that request is still under review.

Sincerely,

Robert Harmon, GISP  
GIS Coordinator  
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cc: Ross Williamson, Yachats City Attorney



<sup>1</sup> <http://nhd.usgs.gov/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.google.com/maps/@44.298989,-124.108618,3a,75y,329.02h,68.23t/data=!3m4!1e1!3m2!1sdeV0FYmqD6-KZAioYwakEgl2e0>

<sup>3</sup> <http://store.usgs.gov> (search on "Yachats, OR"; application will zoom in and present list of available maps)



Figure 1. Portion of 1956 "Waldport" 1:62,500-scale U.S.G.S. topo map.

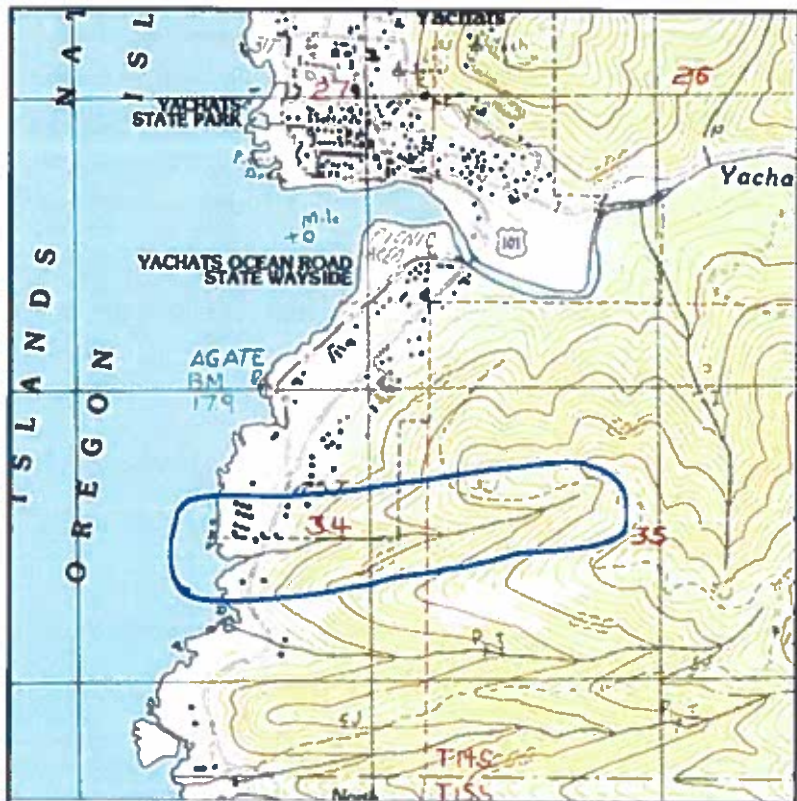


Figure 2. Portion of 1984 "Yachats" 1:24,000-scale U.S.G.S. topo map.