

## Identifying and Naming a Nature Image within PSNZ

### *A guide to best practice*

#### Identification and Naming of Landforms, Geological Formations, and Geological Processes

For the purposes of Nature imagery, a *landform* or *geological formation* is more than a scenic landscape. It tells a story shaped by the Earth's forces over time. The focus of the image should be the *landform or formation itself* — its structure, composition, and the geological processes that formed it.

To meet this standard:

- The image must clearly showcase a specific landform or geological feature
- The visual narrative should convey the essence and identity of the landform — for example, layers of sedimentation, volcanic cones, eroded arches, or glacial valleys
- The *title* of the image should accurately and specifically identify the feature (e.g., "Hooker Valley Moraine Field, Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park" rather than just "Alpine Landscape")
- Supporting descriptions may further explain the geological processes involved, such as erosion, tectonic uplift, volcanic activity, or glaciation

This approach ensures the image is not just beautiful, but also informative, and rooted in natural history.

**Landforms:** The geological name for the type of landform is essential while adding the name of the specific place may add useful context. For example, just naming an image "Mt. Ruapehu" is naming a place and showing a landscape. Naming the landform of Mt Ruapehu as a volcanic cone is the common name, but the scientific name "Composite Volcanic Cone" is the preferred title for such a nature image.

**Waterfall:** There are various types of waterfalls — e.g., plunge, horsetail, cataract, multi-step, block, cascade, segmented, tiered, punchbowl, fan.

**River:** A river could be described as a braided river, a river delta, oxbow lake, meander river

See Table 1 for specific naming examples.

## Identification and Naming of Weather Phenomena and Clouds

For Nature imagery focused on weather phenomena and clouds, the photographer should identify the specific meteorological feature or event, not just a scenic view of the sky. The correct meteorological terms should be used, along with any relevant context.

To meet this standard:

- The image must clearly showcase a distinct weather phenomenon (e.g., lightning, rainbow, flooding)
- The naming of the types of included relevant cloud would be expected — e.g., Cirrus, Nimbostratus, Cumulonimbus, Cirrostratus, Cumulus, Stratocumulus, Altocumulus lenticularis
- The title should name the phenomenon using standard terminology (e.g., “Cumulonimbus Arcus Shelf Cloud” rather than “Cool Cloud”)
- Supporting descriptions may explain the conditions or timing (e.g., “Shelf cloud Forming Ahead of Southerly Change, near Christchurch”)

Generic or poetic titles that don’t convey scientific identity should be avoided.

See Table 2 for specific naming examples.

## Identification and Naming of Astrophotography Subjects

For astrophotography Nature images, the title should identify the astronomical object or event by its official designation or well-known common name. Where possible, observing conditions or location should be included to anchor the image in natural history.

To meet this standard:

- The title must state an astronomical object’s name or catalogue number (e.g., “Messier 42: Orion Nebula” or “Southern Milky Way Core”)
- Location or context may be included if it adds useful information (e.g., “Milky Way Rising over Tasman Lake”)
- Where possible, specific auroral features may be identified, such as rays, arcs, bands, or corona
- Generic or poetic titles that don’t convey scientific identity should be avoided

See Table 3 for specific naming examples.

Table 1	
<i>Geological Formations - Well Described</i>	<i>Not Acceptable for Nature</i>
Kitekite Falls: 3-tiered multi step	Auckland Waterfall
Waiau Toa, Braided River Portion	Turquoise River
Mt. Ruapehu, Composite Volcanic Cone	Mt Ruapehu
Moeraki Boulders Septarian Concretions	Moeraki Boulders
Glacier on Mount Sefton	Aoraki Mt Cook
Lion Rock Volcanic Plug	Lion Rock
Pōhutu Geyser Erupting	Geyser Blowing its Top
Tilted Sedimentary Strata	Beach Scene

Table 2	
<i>Weather - Well Described</i>	<i>Not Acceptable for Nature</i>
Cumulonimbus Panorama	Thunderstorm Clouds
Lightning Strike from Cumulonimbus	Impressive Lightning
Green Flash with Setting Sun	Greenish Sunset
Primary and Secondary Rainbow	Pretty Rainbow

Table 3	
<i>Astrophotography - Well Described</i>	<i>Not Acceptable for Nature</i>
Milky Way Core Rising over Lake Pukaki	Stunning Star Reflections
Comet C/2024 G3 (ATLAS) Setting	Cool Comet over Kāpiti
Pleiades (M45) Star Cluster at Aphelion	Seven Sisters Shining
Aurora Australis with Vertical Rays	Colourful sky