

BINGHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT: The U.S. Board of Geographic Names (BGN) is seeking input on a proposed name “Petes Peak” for an officially unnamed summit within Bingham County. The Board of Bingham County Commissioners will be holding a Public Input Meeting on December 20, 2023 at 11:30 a.m., in Commission Chambers located within the Bingham County Courthouse (501 North Maple, Blackfoot, Idaho).

The Board on Geographic Names is responsible by law for standardizing geographic names for use by the departments and agencies of the Federal Government. The Department of Interior’s USGS provides staff support to the Board on Geographic Names. The staff actively pursues input from state geographic names authorities, land management agencies, local governments, and tribal governments for all submitted naming proposals and local preference is heavily considered in Board of Geographic Names decision.

Summary: A local area resident proposed the commemorative name, “Petes Peak”, for an officially unnamed 5,650-foot peak. The proponent reports that the name has been in local use and commemorates Pete Morris (d.1982).

The case summary and map are attached for your review and contain additional details and context for the proposal.

If you would like to submit comment, please do so by emailing Lindsey Dalley, Commission Clerk at Ldalley@Binghamid.gov or comment on this post.

DEADLINE FOR COMMENT IS MONDAY DECEMBER 18, 2023 AT 4:00 P.M.

“Potato Capital”

Petes Peak

Proposal Information

Proposed name	Petes Peak
Proposal type	make official commemorative name in local use
Proponent	Mark Steffler; Shelley, Idaho
Date proposed	9/10/2023
BGN case number	6136
Quarterly Review List	453

Feature Details

Primary coordinates	43.24238, -112.00545
Feature class	summit
Feature size	elevation 5,650 ft.
Feature description	SW of Saw Log Basin, NNE of The Cove
Name history	The name commemorates Wolverine Canyon homesteader Peter "Pete" Morris (d. 1893)
USGS primary topo map	Higham Peak 1:24,000
State(s)	Idaho
County(s)	Bingham County
PLSS	Sec 16, T2S, R38E, Boise Meridian
Land ownership	private

BGN decisions

- None

Other Names

- Unpublished names: Pete's Peak (proponent)
- Published names: old Pete Morris's Peak; *Bingham County History, 3rd Edition*, Bingham County Centennial Book Committee, 1985

Case Summary

The name Petes Peak is proposed to be made official for a 5,650-foot peak in Bingham County. The proponent reports that the name has been used locally for over 125 years and that it honors "early Wolverine Canyon homesteader Pete Morris (d. 1892), [who] made many contributions to the region, including an engineered irrigation system for the local homesteaders."

The proponent adds, "The peak is a steep incline to a point that attracts the eye when scanning the horizon and [the name] should commemorate those who helped to tame the land and the region."

A 1985 volume describing the history of Bingham County states, "Pete Morris developed a fine farm by having a ditch engineered from the creek up the side hill to irrigate many acres, a real 'work of art.' Pete, a bachelor, met an early death in 1892 from his horse falling on him. Before he died, he asked his friends to bury him on top of the peak which overlooked his holdings. They wanted to oblige, but the task of getting his body up on 'old Pete Morris's Peak' just looked too big. They ended up going to the Blackfoot cemetery."

GNIS does not list any features in Bingham County named "Pete." However, 220 miles to the southeast of the peak in question is an 8,253-foot summit that is also known locally as "Petes Peak." This summit, located on the Payette National Forest, is recorded as Peak 8253 on IdahoClimbingGuide.com but is not listed in GNIS.

Stakeholder Input

Local government	Bingham County
State Names Authority	Idaho Geographic Names Advisory Council
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

Petes Peak (proposed) | Bingham County, Idaho

