

**Lapome Creek**

*Lewis County - New Name*

**Township:** 11N

**Range:** 1W

**Section:** 29&32

**USGS Quad:** Toledo

**Location Description:** Stream; 0.7 miles long; heads in the Wilkes Hills, flows NW into Pin Creek in the Smokey Valley 2.5 miles S/SW of Toledo.

**Proposal Summary:** Lapome Creek: Stream; 0.7 miles long; Heads in the Wilkes Hills at 46°23'42.591"N, 122°49'33.034"W, flows NW into Pin Creek at 46°24'14.84"N, 122°50'1.376"W in the Smokey Valley, 2.5 miles S/SW of Toledo.; Named for the Chinook Jargon word for apple, due to the significance of the Smokey Valley to the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and the apples grown on one parcel along the stream; Lewis County, Washington; T11N, R1W, Sec 29, and 32, Willamette Meridian; 46°23'42.591"N, 122°49'33.034"W USGS map – Toledo 1:24,000.

The proponent, a resident of Kelso, states that "'Lapóme' [sic] is of Chinook Wawa [Chinook Jargon] meaning 'apple'" and that the name references the history, culture, and agriculture of the Smokey Valley area which "has historical significance of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe."

The creek runs through a developing apple orchard, and the property owner's last name is Applebury.

Landowners:

Weyerhaeuser Company

Private Citizens

"Lapome" Features in WA:

None

**Proponent:**

Emily Whalen

PO Box 1

Kelso, WA 98626

**Proposal Received:** 6/14/2023

**Initial Consideration:** 12/11/2023



**Final Consideration:**

**WA Committee Decision:**

**WA Board Decision:**

**US Board Decision:**

**Opinions:**



## **Lapome Creek**

### **Proposal Information**

---

Proposed name	<b>Lapome Creek</b>
Proposal type	new name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Emily Whalen; Kelso, WA
Date proposed	6/14/2023
BGN case number	6077
Quarterly Review List	452

### **Feature Details**

---

Primary coordinates	46.404025, -122.833777
Secondary coordinates	46.395176, -122.825795
Feature class	stream
Feature size	0.7 mi. long
Feature description	heads in the Wilkes Hills, flows NW into Pin Creek in the Smokey Valley
Name history	named for the Chinook Jargon word for apple, due to the significance of the Smokey Valley to the Cowlitz Indian Tribe and the apples grown on one parcel along the stream
USGS primary topo map	Toledo 1:24,000
State(s)	Washington
County(s)	Lewis County
PLSS	Secs 29&32, T11N, R1W, Willamette Meridian
Land ownership	private

### **BGN decisions**

- None

### **Other Names**

- Unpublished names: None found
- Published names: None found

### **Case Summary**

---

The new name Lapome Creek is proposed for an unnamed 0.7-mile-long tributary of Pin Creek in Lewis County.

The proponent, a resident of Kelso, states that “‘Lapóme’ [*sic*] is of Chinook Wawa [Chinook Jargon] meaning ‘apple’” and that the name references the history, culture, and agriculture of the Smokey Valley area which “has historical significance of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe.” She also reports that an individual with the last name Applebury is developing an apple orchard along the stream and that “[w]ith personal land use significance to the ranch owner as well as the



opportunity to honor a cultural and historical area of an American landscape, we propose this name in respect to documentation and preservation of the geographical area.”

The proponent provided a link to [an entry for “apple”](#) in the online Cowlitz Coast Salish Dictionary, which notes that the word that means apple is lipúm and that it is a loanword that comes from the “Chinook Jargon lapóme ‘apple’, taken in turn from French le pomme ‘apple.’”

George Gibbs’ 1863 *A Dictionary of the Chinook Jargon* records the following in the Chinook—English section (capitalization modified and syllable-marking hyphens removed):

- lapóme, n. French, la pomme. An apple. (but “apple, le pome” in the English—Chinook section)
- powitsh, n. Chinook, pautish. A crab-apple

C. M. Tate’s 1914 *Chinook Jargon as Spoken by the Indians of the Pacific Coast* records the following in the English-Chinook section:

- apple, le pom. (but no entry in the Chinook-English section)
- crab apple, powitch

A 1990 article by J. V. Powell in the *International Journal of American Linguistics* titled “Chinook Jargon Vocabulary and the Lexicographers” reports that the term “lapome” is only found in one Chinook Jargon dictionary; the article mistakenly cites this from John Good’s 1880 *A Vocabulary and Outline of Nilakapamuk or Thompson Tongue Together with a Phonetic Chinook Dictionary Adapted for Use in the Province of British Columbia*, which does not contain the word “lapome.”

BGN staff asked the proponent if the word should be Lapome or Lapóme but to date no response has been received.

The hydrology recorded in the USGS National Hydrography Dataset conflicts with that of the Washington Department of Natural Resources. BGN staff asked the proponent to clarify the extent of the stream but again has not responded.

### Stakeholder Input

---

Local government	Lewis County
State Names Authority	Washington
Federal Agency	n/a
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X
Other	



# Domestic Geographic Name Proposal Form

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) is responsible for standardizing the names of geographic features within the 50 States and in other areas under the sovereignty of the United States. The BGN retains the legal authority to promulgate all official names and locations of natural features (e.g. mountains, rivers, valleys), as well as canals, channels, reservoirs, and other select feature types.

This form is to propose a new name or name, spelling, or application change for a geographic feature for Federal use. A proponent should carefully review the proposal prior to submission to ensure that it is consistent with the [BGN policies](#). Please note all fields with a red outline are required prior to submitting this form.

The proponent should also be aware that the entire proposal—including personal identifying information and any associated correspondence—is in the public domain and may be made publicly available at any time.

Submit Proposal:

Contact Us:  
[BGNEXEC@usgs.gov](#)

1. Email this form and supporting documentation to: [BGNEXEC@usgs.gov](mailto:BGNEXEC@usgs.gov)

i. Save PDF as 'ST\_GeographicName' for example 'CO\_BearCreek'

ii. Email Subject: ST\_GeographicName

OR

2. Send by mail to:  
U.S. BGN Executive Secretary, Domestic Names  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS-523  
Reston, VA 20192

Please note that anything submitted by mail will delayed.

## Naming Basics

Proposed Name:

Is this name in current local use?  

YN

What is the Feature Class?

Is this to change an existing name?  

YN

If yes, please provide the official name and Feature ID as it appears in [the Geographic Names Information System \(GNIS\)](#).

GNIS Name:

Feature ID:

## Location Basics



Where is the feature?

Latitude:  (38.94741)

Longitude:  (-77.36839)

For Linear Features (e.g. stream or valley):

Mouth/Confluence


Latitude:  (38.94741)

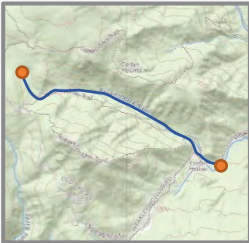
Longitude:  (-77.36839)

Source/Headwater

Latitude:  (38.94741)

Longitude:  (-77.36839)





General Location:

State:

County:

City/Town/Township/Borough:

Public Land Survey System:

Section(s), Township, Range, Meridian



## Feature Description

*Physical shape, length, width, etc. (Maps can be submitted separately by email)*

## Name Details

**Name information:**

*Please provide relevant information about the proposed name, such as origin, meaning, how long it has been in current use, as well as current or historical significance. Also include why you believe the feature requires a name or name change and why the proposed name is appropriate. Describe any documents that you will be submitting (separately by email) to support your proposal.*



Please provide a list of supporting documentation, including any web links:  
*Examples: Published sources showing the proposed name or letters of support (local government, historical society, etc.).*

Is the name [commemorative](#)? Does the name honor or refer to a person or persons? ☐ Y ☐ N

*Please note that the BGN will only accept proposals for names that are intended to honor a person or persons deceased at least five years. The BGN will disapprove names that could be construed to honor living persons. The person being honored should have had either (1) some direct or long-term association with the feature, or (2) have made a significant contribution to the area, community, or State in which it is located; or (3) have outstanding national or international recognition. The BGN discourages the use of an individual’s full name except to avoid ambiguity.*

*If yes, please provide the following:*

Honoree’s Date of Birth:

Honoree’s Date of Death:

Short biography and significance or association with the geographic feature: *(list any additional honorees here)*



Is the feature in a Wilderness Area or Wilderness Study Area? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ Unknown

If yes, please provide your justification for making an exception to [the Wilderness Policy](#):

Please note that the BGN will not approve new names for unnamed features within wilderness areas or wilderness study areas, unless an overriding need can be demonstrated by the proponent.

Additional Information +

Is there any local opposition or conflict with the proposed name? ☐ Y ☐ N

If yes, please explain and describe any opposition:

Additional notes:

Proponent Information



Please provide one form of contact (email preferred):



Proponent's Name:

Agency or Organization, if applicable:



Email:



Mailing Address:



Phone:



Are you completing this form for someone else?

☐ Y ☐ N

If yes, please fill out the following:

Completed by:

Full Name:

Email:

Mailing Address:

Phone:



**NHD hydrology**

Pin Creek GNIS mouth

Pin Creek GNIS source

USGS quad blue line end

NHD end of Pin Creek application

Applebury property (approx. from county data)

coordinates from proponent

Where does Pin Creek begin?

What is the best source for Lapome Creek?

**Lapome Creek (proposed)**

Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

**WA DNR hydrology**

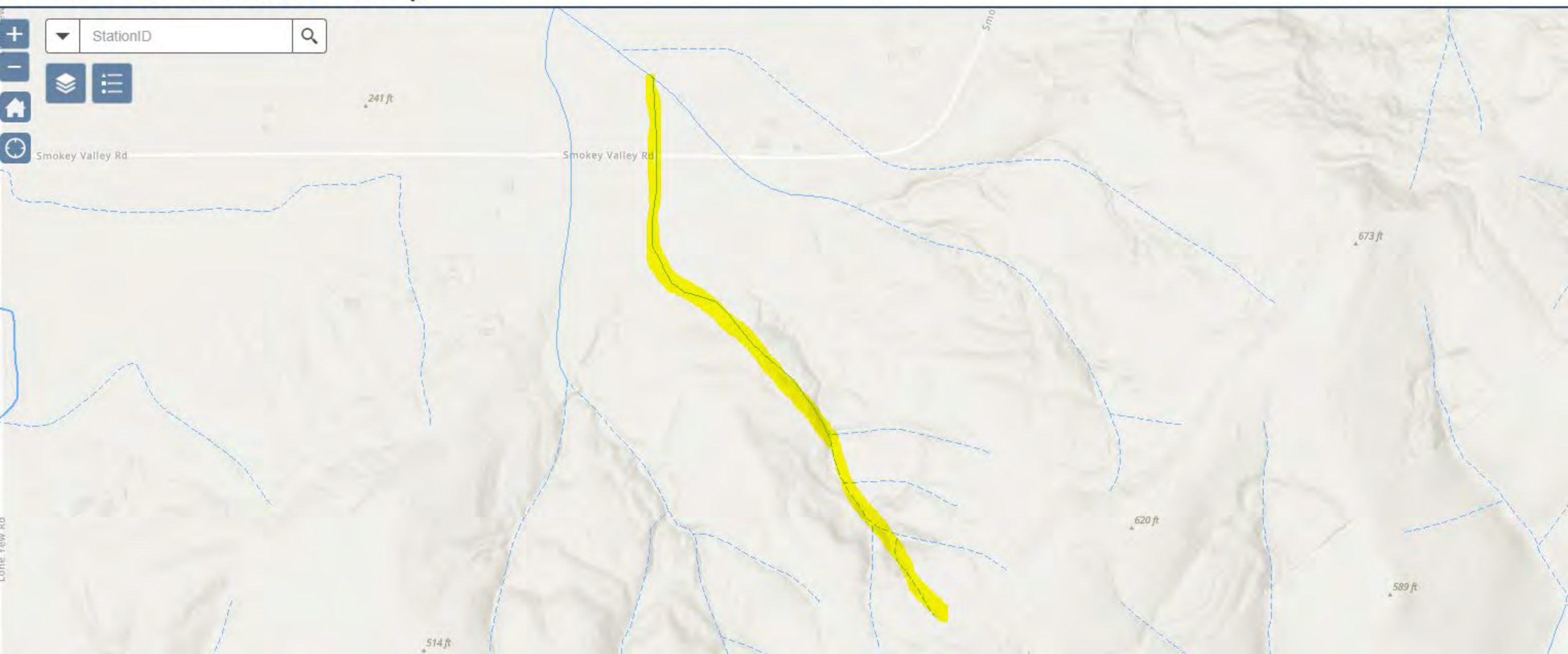
This topographic map shows the Pin Creek area in Washington state. The map includes contour lines, roads, and property boundaries. Key features include:

- Pin Creek:** The main water feature, flowing from the top left towards the bottom right.
- Applebury property:** A rectangular area outlined in black, located in the center of the map. It contains two red dots representing coordinates from the proponent.
- DNR end of Pin Creek application:** A blue dot located on the left side of the map, near the center of the Applebury property.
- Topography:** Contour lines are shown, with elevations ranging from 200 to 600 feet.
- Roads:** Several roads are labeled, including "BLAKE ROAD" and "T ROAD".
- Inset Map:** A small map in the top right corner shows the location of the study area within Washington state, with labels for Thurston, Pierce, Lewis, Cowlitz, and Clark counties.
- Scale:** A scale bar at the bottom right indicates distances of 0, 0.25, and 0.5 miles.
- Copyright:** The map is copyrighted by © 2013 cubed.



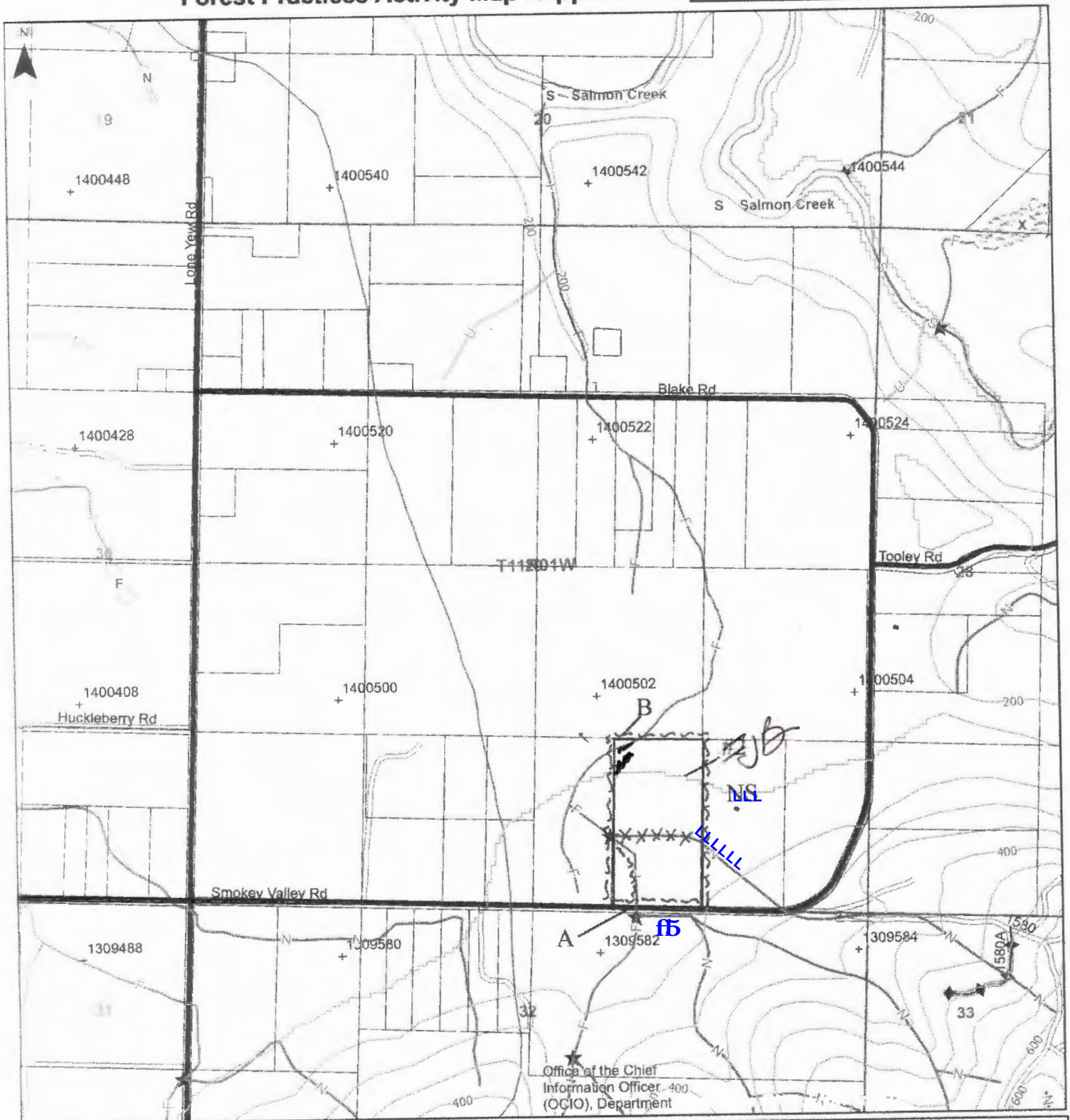
Search & Data > Monitoring & Assessment > River & Stream Monitoring > Flow Monitoring > Statewide Map

## Freshwater DataStream data map





# Forest Practices Activity Map - Application # Applebury



## Map Symbols

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| --- Harvest Boundary    | ● Landing            |
| - - - Road Construction | ▽ Waste Area         |
| ~ Stream                | ⬆ Clumped WRTS/GRTS  |
| ▨ RMZ / WMZ Buffers     | ⬆ Existing Structure |
| ✕ Rock Pit              |                      |

## Additional Information

Extreme care was used during the compilation of this map to ensure its accuracy. However, due to changes in data and the need to rely on outside information, the Department of Natural Resources cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions, and therefore, there are no warranties that accompany this material.

## Legal Description

S29 T11.0N R01.0W



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**

0 0.25  
Miles

Date: 6/8/2021

Time: 11:33:25 AM



# COWLITZ COAST SALISH DICTIONARY O N L I N E

English	Cowlitz	apple	Search																						
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z

[Leave a Comment](#)

## apple

### 1 lipúm

[ lipúm 'apple' ]

apple

*Loanword: Chinook Jargon lapóme 'apple', taken in turn from French le pomme 'apple'*

### 2 ʔápls

[ ʔápls 'apple' ]

apple(s)

*Loanword: English 'apples'*

### 3 qʷúml̓ (renst.)

[ qʷúml̓ 'unripe crabapple' ]

crab apple, Pacific crab apple (unripe)

*Note: see Lower Chehalis sqʷúm̓, Quinault qʷám̓ 'ripe crab apples'*



---

**From:** BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2023 3:23 PM

**To:** Emily Whalen <emwhalenm@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] ST\_LapomeCreek

Dear Ms. Whalen:

This acknowledges your proposal to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) to apply the new name Lapome Creek to an unnamed stream in Lewis County.

The BGN is responsible for standardizing geographic names for use by the Federal Government, and its members must approve any new name before it can appear on Federal maps and products. We will prepare a case brief for the proposed name and add it to the BGN's next Quarterly Review List. In order to complete the brief, we need clarification on a few items:

--- Regarding the extent of the stream, is the attached map (blue line) correct? Does the stream flow into Pin Creek, or into an unnamed tributary of Pin Creek? The map on the left shows that according to the BGN's database (Geographic Names Information System, i.e., GNIS), the current source (headwater) of Pin Creek is further north and does not extend to any of the tributaries.

The National Hydrography Dataset and the Washington Department of Natural Resources show the source slightly to the south, but again, not along any of the tributaries. (Please note that the location of Pin Creek does not have a direct bearing on the proposal for Lapome Creek, but if you have any local knowledge that is always appreciated. We will also ask the DNR for their advice and if necessary, make any changes to the database.)

--- For the source (headwater) of the proposed name, we will go with the middle of the three tributaries, as highlighted in blue and shown on your Dept. of Ecology map (even though the more easterly one is slightly longer, and which is normal BGN policy).

--- Although the proposal does not state that it specifically honors the ranch owner, the BGN may be concerned that the name Applebury could violate the Commemorative Names Policy. That is, no new name can honor or be construed to honor a living person. The intended honoree must have been deceased at least five years and should have had a long-term association with the geographic feature or made a significant contribution to the community. To confirm, the name simply refers to the production of apples and not to the property owner?

--- The BGN also has a Commercial Names Policy. Can you confirm that the orchard is not named "Lapome", i.e., there is no use of that name in a business or commercial product?

--- What is your connection to the orchard and/or the Applebury family? Is the ranch owner aware of your application?

--- Looking at the online Cowlitz Coast Salish Dictionary (which notes that the Salish word for apple is lipúm), the Chinook Jargon word is recorded as "lapóme". Did you intend to include the accent mark in the name?

Indeed, because the proposed name is derived from a Native language, the BGN is asking that you review its guidance entitled "Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names" at <https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names/cultural-sensitivity-native-american-names>. This document requests that the proponent of any name that would be of interest to a Tribe make an effort to seek the opinion of a Tribal government(s) and/or a linguist or cultural authority regarding the appropriateness of the chosen name. In this case, that would likely be the Cowlitz Indian Tribe or an authority on Chinook Jargon. A lack of Tribal input does not necessarily prevent the BGN from approving the proposal, but if no effort is made to seek their input, it could impact the final outcome. The guidance includes a link to the Bureau of Indian



Affairs Tribal Leaders Directory. Any Tribal comments can be submitted to [BGNEXEC@usgs.gov](mailto:BGNEXEC@usgs.gov). Local opinion is important to the BGN, so once we have responses to our questions, we will forward your application to the [Washington State Geographic Names Committee](#) (WGNC). As part of its review, the WGNC will seek the opinion of the county government and any State agencies that might wish to comment. We will also ask all federally recognized Indian Tribes if they wish to comment. If you can gather additional support from local residents or a local historical society, we would welcome that for the file. The secretary of the WGNC may wish to contact you to discuss your application.

Once all parties have had an opportunity to provide their recommendations, we will present the proposal for Lapome Creek (or Lapóme Creek?) to the BGN for discussion and the final decision. The entire process typically takes several months, but we will notify you of the outcome.

Thank you for your interest in the geographic names of Washington and we look forward to hearing from you. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Jennifer Runyon, research staff  
U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Reston, Virginia 20192  
(703) 648-4550

[BGNEXEC@usgs.gov](mailto:BGNEXEC@usgs.gov)

<https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names/domestic-names>

---



**From:** Emily Whalen <emwhalenm@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2023 5:01 PM

**To:** BGNEXEC, GS-N-MAC <bgnexec@usgs.gov>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] ST\_LapomeCreek

Hello,

I am writing in reference to the submission of a new geographic feature name as Lapome Creek.

Please refer to my completed proposal form and supporting map documents.

- Department of Ecology map refers to the entire length of the stream
- DNR map refers to the stream's relationship to ranch property (referenced as 'A')

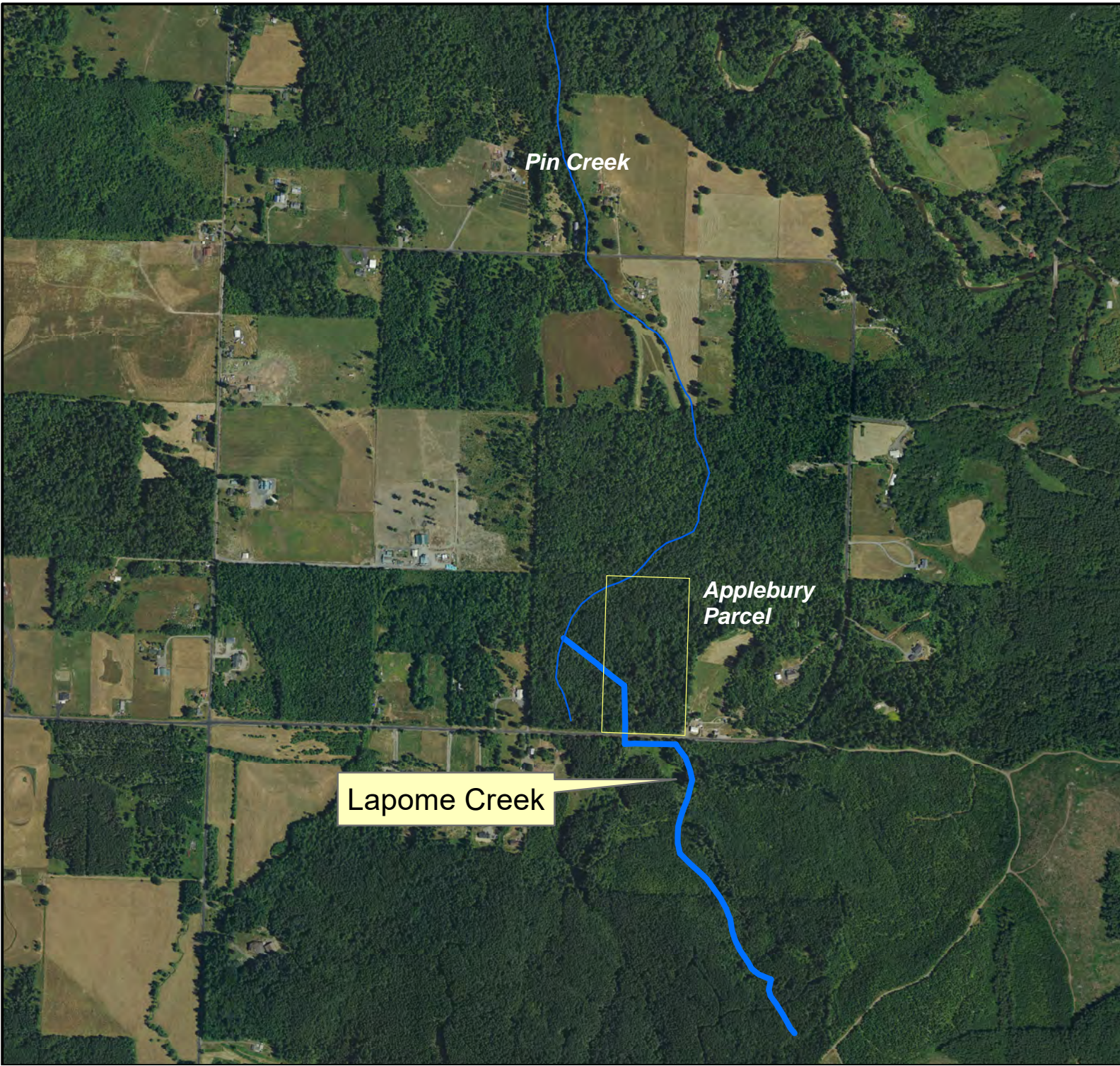
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

Emily Whalen



# Lapome Creek - LEWIS COUNTY



*Pin Creek*

*Applebury Parcel*

Lapome Creek

Stream: 0.7 miles long, heads in the Wilkes Hills, flows NW into Pin Creek in the Smokey Valley.

The proponent, a resident of Kelso, states that “‘Lapóme’ [sic] is of Chinook Wawa [Chinook Jargon] meaning ‘apple’” and that the name references the history, culture, and agriculture of the Smokey Valley area which “has historical significance of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe.”

The creek runs through a developing apple orchard, and the property owner's last name is Applebury.

