

**Wild Plum Creek**

*Stevens County - New Name*

**Township:** 32N

**Range:** 37E

**Section:** 22,23,24

**USGS Quad:** Inchelium & Wellington Peak

**Location Description:** Stream; 1.5 miles long, heads at 48° 15' 9.616" N, 118° 6' 21.246" W, flows W to enter the Columbia River at 48° 15' 27.928" N, 118° 8' 1.785" W, 3.3 miles S of Gifford.

**Proposal Summary:** Wild Plum Creek: Stream; 1.5 miles long, heads at 48° 15' 9.616" N, 118° 6' 21.246" W, flows W to enter the Columbia River at 48° 15' 27.928" N, 118° 8' 1.785" W, 3.3 miles S of Gifford.; Named for the wild plums that grow along the creek.; Stevens County, Washington; Secs 22, 23, and 24, T32N, R37E, Willamette Meridian; 48° 15' 27.928" N, 118° 8' 1.785" W; USGS Map - Inchelium & Wellington Peak 1:24,000

Proposed name references the large amount of wild plums that grow along the creek. The proponent and his wife harvest the plums along the creek every year.

Landowner:

Bear Basin LLC

Proponent

2 Private Citizens

WS DOT flows under Hwy 25

US Bureau of Reclamation

"Plum" features in WA:

Plum Point - Lincoln County

Plum Point - Mason County

**Proponent:**

Edward Slonaker

3747C Hwy 25 S

Gifford, WA 99131

**Proposal Received:** 5/21/2023

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

**Final Consideration:**

**WA Committee Decision:**

**WA Board Decision:**

**US Board Decision:**

**Opinions:**

## Wild Plum Creek

### Proposal Information

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Proposed name	<b>Wild Plum Creek</b>
Proposal type	new name for unnamed feature
Current official name	n/a
GNIS ID	n/a
Proponent	Edward Slonaker; Gifford, WA
Date proposed	4/25/23
Quarterly Review List	452

### Feature Details

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Primary coordinates	48.25475, -118.13555
Secondary coordinates	48.25261, -118.10603
Feature class	Stream
Feature size	1.46 miles long
Feature description	Heads 1.4 mi. SW of Wellington Peak, flows generally W into Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake on the Columbia River
Name history	Named for wild plums that are found along the stream
USGS primary topo map	Inchelium 1:24,000
State(s)	Washington
County(s)	Stevens County
PLSS	Secs 22-24, T32N R 37W, Willamette Meridian
Land ownership	Private / Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area

### BGN decisions

- None

### Other Names

- Unpublished names: None found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

### Case Summary

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The new name Wild Plum Creek is proposed for a 1.46-mile-long tributary of the Columbia River in Stevens County. The stream flows into Franklin D. Roosevelt Lake on the Columbia River, and the stream's mouth is within Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, managed by the National Park Service. The remainder of the stream is on private property.

The proponent states that the stream is intermittent and that they have only seen water flowing in it once in the three years they have lived there. They also report that some neighbors have seen the stream flood the road near the mouth.

The proponent states that the “[n]ame is derived from the incredible number of ‘wild’ plum trees growing along it. We harvest these plums. . . every year. . . .”

The stream “blue line” shown on the 1:24,000-scale USGS topographic map (and digitized in NHD) does not match the stream’s flow based on aerial imagery. The coordinates in this case summary reflect the flow derived from aerial imagery.

### **Stakeholder Input**

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Local government	Stevens County
State Names Authority	Washington
Federal Agency	National Park Service
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X

## 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:

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

Contact Us:

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

*Please note that anything submitted by mail will be delayed.*

## Naming Basics

Proposed Name:

Is this name in current local use?

Y  N

What is the Feature Class?

Is this to change an existing name?

Y  N

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

GNIS Name:

Feature ID:

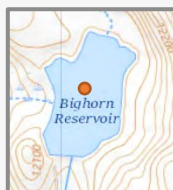
## Location Basics



Where is the feature?

Latitude:  (38.94741)

Longitude:  (-77.36839)

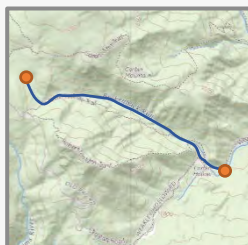


For Linear Features (e.g. stream or valley):

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.).*



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

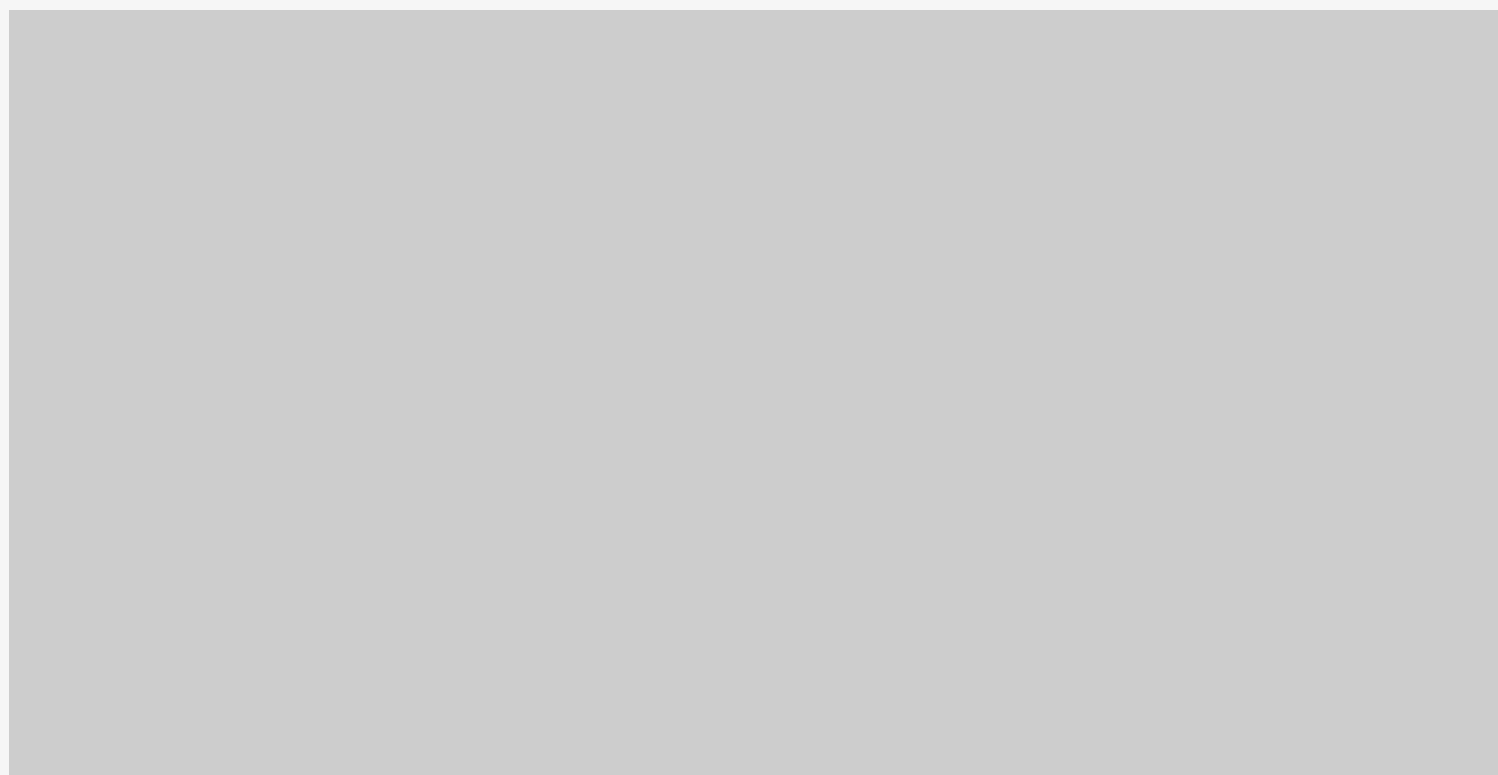
*Please note that the BGN will only accept proposals for names that are intended to honor a person or persons deceased at least five years. The BGN will disapprove names that could be construed to honor living persons. The person being honored should have had either (1) some direct or long-term association 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:















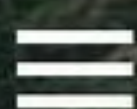








15:51



2D

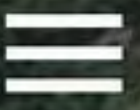


Bissell Flats

Google

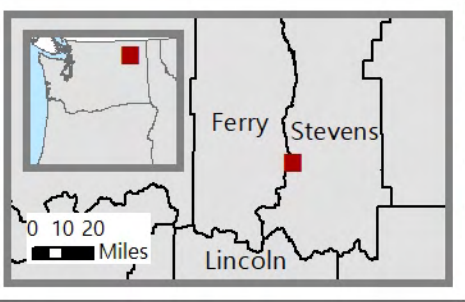
(48°15'42"N 118°09'27"W) 1 mi





Bissell Flats



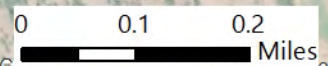


Lake Roosevelt  
National  
Recreation Area

*mouth from imagery  
and proponent*

*NHD flowline*

*Wild Plum Creek  
(proposed)*





**Comments**

**Received**

**From:** [O'Donnell, Matthew J](#)  
**To:** [MAKI, CALEB \(DNR\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Carlson, Tom](#)  
**Subject:** Re: BGN: Wild Plum Creek proposal (new name), Stevens County (Review List 452)  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023 6:48:20 AM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)  
[NPS no objection.pdf](#)

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External Email

Hi Caleb,

NPS has no objection to the Wild Plum Creek name. We worked out that "Bissell Creek" probably does indeed refer to the creek that flows past the community of Bissell. NPS seemingly has no interest in proposing that Bissell Creek be made official. If this is something the WA committee can do or wants to do, let me know. This doesn't seem to be a name used on any authoritative-enough source to add directly to GNIS.

Matt

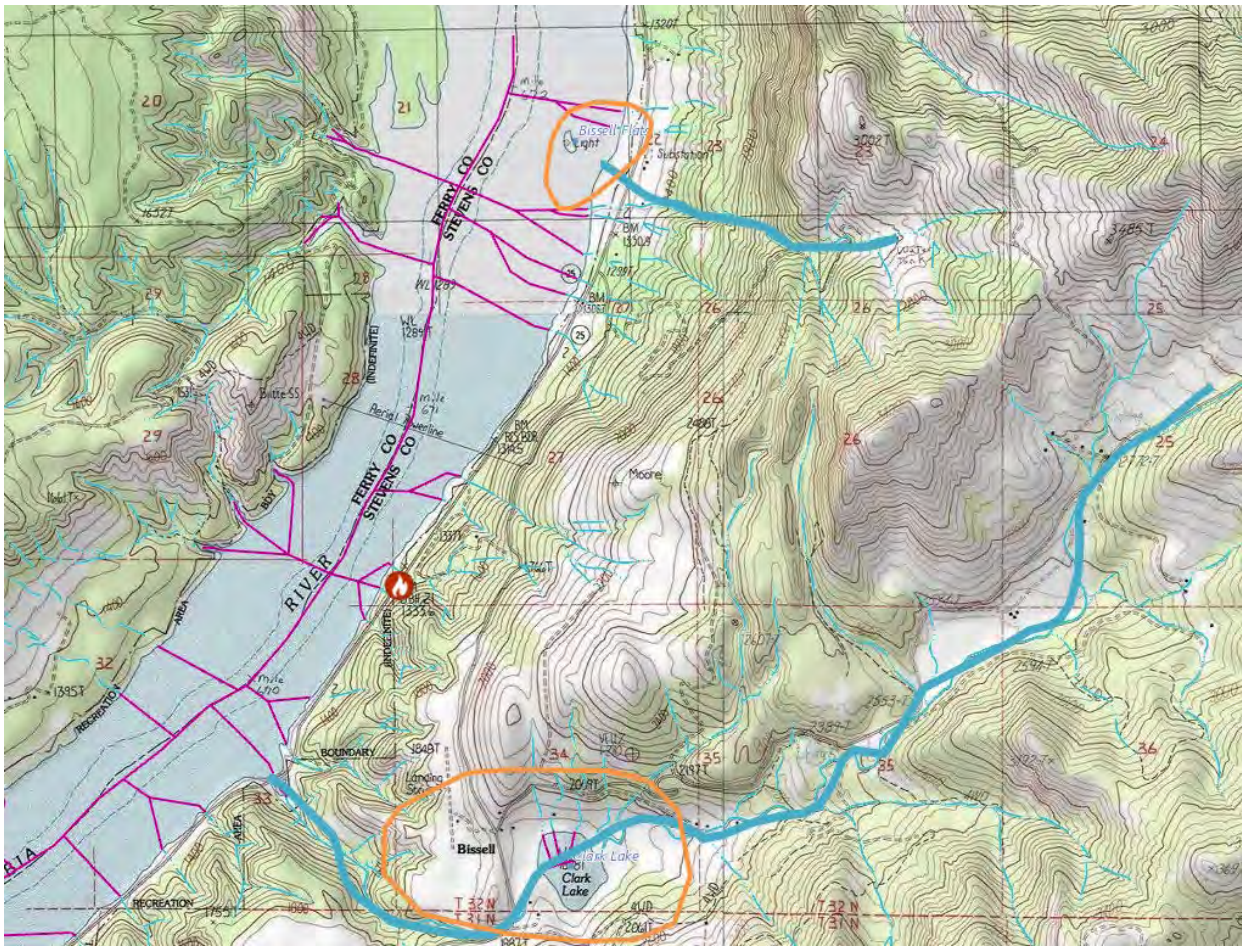
Matt O'Donnell  
BGN research staff  
Phone: 703-648-4553  
Email: [mjodonnell@usgs.gov](mailto:mjodonnell@usgs.gov)

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**From:** O'Donnell, Matthew J <[mjodonnell@usgs.gov](mailto:mjodonnell@usgs.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2023 10:21 AM  
**To:** MAKI, CALEB (DNR) <[CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Carlson, Tom <[tcarlson@usgs.gov](mailto:tcarlson@usgs.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: BGN: Wild Plum Creek proposal (new name), Stevens County (Review List 452)  
Hi Caleb, a quick follow up on this case.

Our NPS member asked Lake Roosevelt NRA (LARO) to review the proposal; our USBR member doesn't think USBR will need to comment. LARO responded that the stream in question is called **Bissell Creek**; it flows into the Columbia River at [Bissell Flats](#).

There was a fire near there earlier this month: <http://www.wildcad.net/WCWA-NECopen.htm> (STEVENS COUNTY - BISSELL CREEK 32N R37E Sec 27 48 14.226, -118 8.928 [= 48.237100, -118.148800]). The stream in question doesn't flow through Sec 27, but fires are named after nearby features. See the map below. I plotted the fire coordinates.



Could you check any of your state sources to see if the stream that flows into the Columbia River at 48.25475, -118.13555 is locally called Bissell Creek? It would make more sense if the longer stream that flowed directly past Bissell had that name, but names are often illogical.

Matt

Matt O'Donnell  
BGN research staff  
Phone: 703-648-4553  
Email: mjdodonnell@usgs.gov

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**From:** O'Donnell, Matthew J  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 3, 2023 3:58 PM  
**To:** MAKI, CALEB (DNR) <CALEB.MAKI@dnr.wa.gov>  
**Cc:** Carlson, Tom <tcarlson@usgs.gov>  
**Subject:** BGN: Wild Plum Creek proposal (new name), Stevens County (Review List 452)  
Hi Caleb,

I hope and your family are doing well this summer!

[Review List 452](#) has two proposals for review by the Committee. I'll send the other in a separate thread. I think Jenny already emailed you a bit about each of them.

The first is for the new name Wild Plum Creek for a tributary of the Columbia River in Stevens County. The mouth is within Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, so we'll ask NPS for a recommendation and share that with you. (Although now I'm seeing that the county GIS data show the shoreline of Lake Roosevelt is managed by US Bureau of Reclamation)

Mouth: [48.25475, -118.13555](#)

Source: [48.25261, -118.10603](#) (the usual slow links)

The proponent collects wild plums along the stream. The proponent owns land along part of the stream and there are other landowners.

It's a very intermittent stream, but the BGN allows naming of streams of any kind, seasonal or not. The mouth in NHD doesn't match the imagery—see the map in the packet. We can't do much to update NHD.

Will you begin processing cases before a new Committee Chair is chosen? I trust that you'll do the relevant local outreach as usual. The BGN's Tribal deadline for recommendations will be at the end of September. If we get any input from anyone, I'll share it with you.

Thanks!

Matt

Matt O'Donnell  
BGN research staff  
Phone: 703-648-4553  
Email: [mjodonnell@usgs.gov](mailto:mjodonnell@usgs.gov)

## MAKI, CALEB (DNR)

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**From:** eslonaker elpilon.com <eslonaker@elpilon.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023 3:35 PM  
**To:** MAKI, CALEB (DNR)  
**Subject:** Wild Plum Creek

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### External Email

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Just wanted to thank you, again, for calling. I wasn't really expecting anything to happen until the following year. Like I was telling you, I worked for 36 years with Dept of Army back in Texas, so I'm quite used to the "speed" of these things.

If you, or anyone in the committee, would like to see what "Wild Plum Creek" looks like in action, I posted a video on Facebook back in April from my drone. It goes from the shore of Lake Roosevelt up the mountain a little ways before I almost clipped a tree branch and called it quits.

And, again, if you or any of your team find themselves in the area, give us a shout. My wife and I (I don't mind saying) are home artisans of delicious and crafty things. Stop on by!

Cheers!  
Ed.

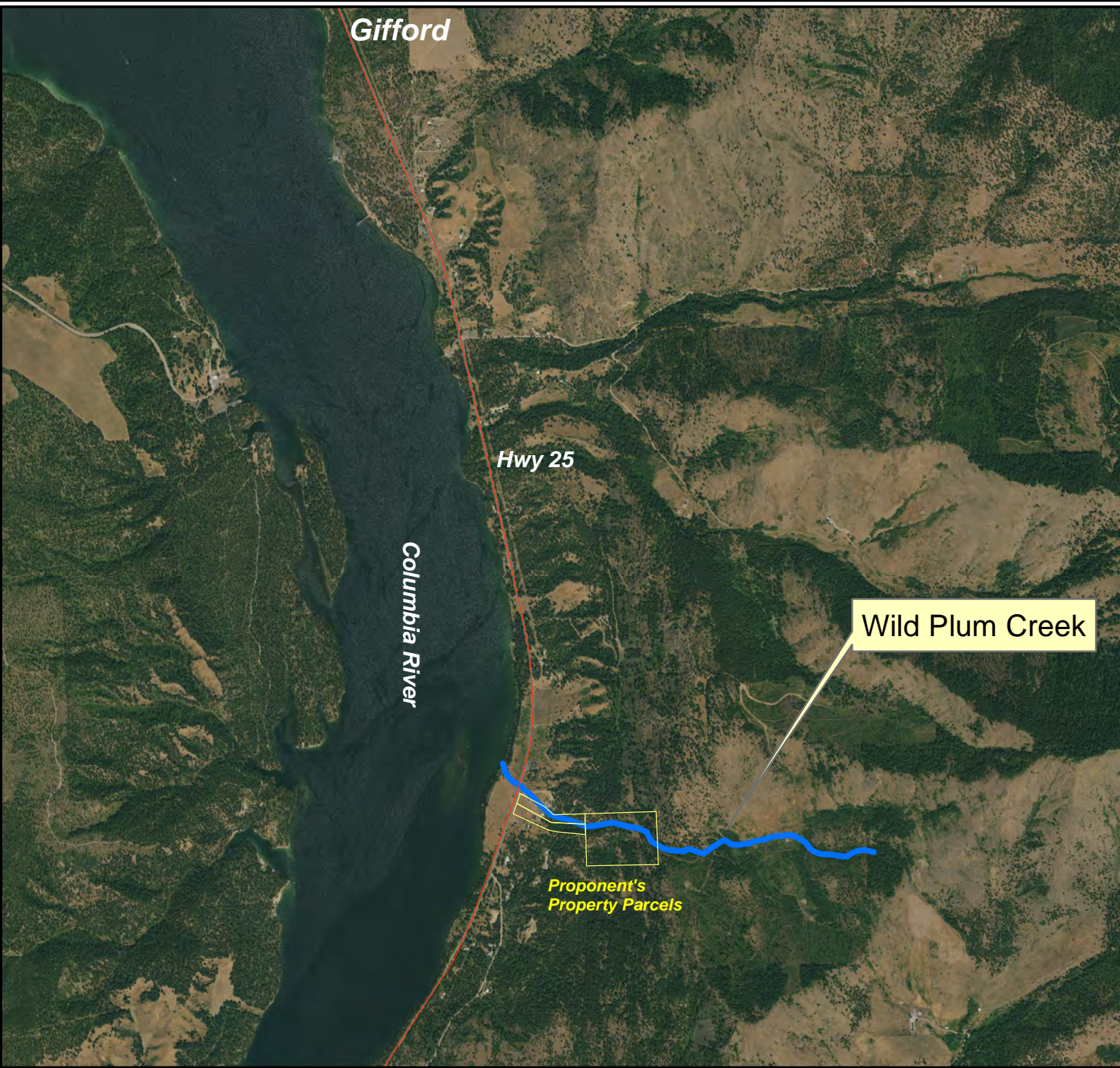
Edward & Kim Slonaker  
3747C Hwy 25 S  
Gifford, WA 99131-9707  
Home: (509) 722-3392  
Cell: (361) 815-6228



Edward Slonaker - Wanted to get some video, with the...  
[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)



# Wild Plum Creek - STEVENS COUNTY



Stream; 1.5 miles long, heads at 48° 15' 9.616" N, 118° 6' 21.246" W, flows W to enter the Columbia River at 48° 15' 27.928" N, 118° 8' 1.785" W, 3.3 miles S of Gifford.

Proposed name references the large amount of wild plums that grow along the creek. The proponent and his wife harvest the plums along the creek every year, and the creek flows through the proponent's property.

