



## STATE OF NEVADA Nevada State Board on Geographic Names

MEMBERS: Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada Historical Society, Nevada Indian Commission, Nevada State Library and Archives, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, University of Nevada, Reno, National Parks Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

### Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda of the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names

A public meeting will be held on:

**January 17, 2023**

Richard H. Bryan Building  
Tahoe Hearing Room. 2nd Floor  
901 S. Stewart Street. Carson City, NV

or

Via Microsoft Teams at  
<https://bit.ly/3fIwiju>  
Meeting ID: 274 603 680 045  
Passcode: we9agS

or

By Phone at  
Phone Number: 775-321-6111  
Phone Conference ID: 364 231 366#

Attendance to this meeting will also be available virtually. The Nevada State Board on Geographic Names uses Microsoft Teams, a third-party app, for its virtual meetings and does not control its technical specifications or requirements. Your ability to participate in the public comment portions of a meeting may be impacted by factors including but not limited to the type of device you use, the strength of your internet or cellular signal, and the company that provides your internet or cellular service. The Nevada State Board on Geographic Names is not responsible if you are not able to participate in a meeting through Microsoft Teams due to these or any other factors.

**9:30am – 12:00pm**

**Please note times stated are approximate, and agenda items may be heard out of order.**  
**Chair reserves the right to take breaks where practical.**

#### AGENDA:

1. Call to order and approval of Agenda (For possible action)
2. Introduction of Board, Guests (Action will not be taken)
3. Public comment (Action will not be taken)

***Pursuant to N.R.S. 241, this time is devoted to comments by the public, if any, and discussion of those comments. Comment will not be restricted based on viewpoint. No action may be taken upon***

Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology  
Mail Stop 178  
Reno, Nevada 89557-0178  
Telephone: (775) 784-6691  
FAX: (775) 784-1709  
[www.nbmng.unr.edu](http://www.nbmng.unr.edu)

***a matter raised under this item on the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on a successive agenda and identified as an item for possible action. All public comments may be limited to 5 minutes for each person at the discretion of the Chair.***

4. Approval of the Minutes of the October 2022 meeting (For possible action)
5. Announcements, Chairman or Executive Secretary
6. Announcements from Board members
7. Protocol and streamlining of NSBGN procedures update (For possible action)  
***Standing item reserved for discussing efficiency of NSBGN operations.***  
***NSBGN Members***
8. Humboldt Pass/Secret Pass (For possible action)  
***Second hearing for proposed name change of Humboldt Pass in Elko County.***  
***NSBGN Members***
9. Select tentative meeting place and date for May 2023 meeting (For possible action)
10. Public comments (Action will not be taken)  
***Pursuant to N.R.S. 241, this time is devoted to comments by the public, if any, and discussion of those comments. Comment will not be restricted based on viewpoint. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item on the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on a successive agenda and identified as an item for possible action. All public comments may be limited to 5 minutes for each person at the discretion of the Chair.***
11. Adjournment

Please Note:

- Times stated herein are approximate.
- Items on the agenda may be taken out of order; Chair reserves the right to take items out of order to expedite the meeting or to accommodate speakers;
- Items may be removed from the agenda or discussion delayed related to an item on the agenda at any time.
- Members of the public who need assistance accessing the meeting should notify Christine Johnson at [ckjohnson@nevada.unr.edu](mailto:ckjohnson@nevada.unr.edu) no later than January 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Notice of this meeting will be posted prior to January 13<sup>th</sup> on the NSBGN website as well as at the following public agencies:
  - Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 901 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89701
  - Nevada Historical Society, 1650 N. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89503
  - University of Nevada Reno, Department of Geography, 1664 N. Virginia St. 89557
  - Great Basin Science Sample and Records Library, 2175 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV 89512
  - Nevada State Library, Archives & Public Records, 100 N. Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701
  - University of Nevada Reno, Department of Mines & Geology, 1664 N. Virginia St. 89557
- In addition, this notice of meeting is posted on the following websites:  
NSBGN website at <http://www.nbmng.unr.edu/geonames/index.html>  
Nevada State Clearinghouse Website at <https://clearinghouse.nv.gov/>  
Nevada Public Notice Website at [www.notice.nv.gov](http://www.notice.nv.gov)

## APPENDIX C.

U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey

## Domestic Geographic Name Report

1. Use this form to recommend a feature name or to suggest a name change.

2. For features on Federal lands, coordinate requests with the agency (U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc.) for the administrative area in which the feature is located.

3. On the reverse side of this form give information on the local usage and authority for recommended name.

4. For more information about the Geographic Names Information System or the National Gazetteer program, contact the U.S. Board on Geographic Names at 703-648-4544.

5. Return this form to:

Executive Secretary for Domestic  
Geographic Names  
U.S. Geological Survey  
523 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Action Requested:</b><br><br>Proposed New Name _____<br><br>Application Change _____<br><br><input checked="" type="radio"/> Name Change _____<br><br>Other _____ | <b>Recommended Name</b><br><u>SECRET PASS [AKA HUMBOLDT PASS]</u><br><b>State</b><br><u>ELKO</u><br><b>County or Equivalent</b><br><u>NEVADA</u><br><b>Administrative Area</b><br>_____ |
|--|---|

**Specific Area Covered:** SEE ATTACHED "FEATURE DETAILS" \*

Latitude: \_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_" N S      Longitude: \_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_" W E      Mouth End Center  
 Latitude: \_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_" N S      Longitude: \_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_' \_\_\_\_" W E      Heading End

Section(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Township(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Range(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Meridian \_\_\_\_\_ Elevation \_\_\_\_ ft/m.

**Type of Feature** (stream, mountain, populated place, etc.): MOUNTAIN PASS

Is the feature identified (including other names) in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)?  
☒ Yes      No      Unknown      If yes, please indicate how it is listed: HUMBOLDT PASS

**Description of Feature** (physical shape, length, width, direction of flow, etc.):  
SEE ATTACHED "FEATURE DETAILS"

| Maps and Other Sources Using Recommended Name (include scale and date) | Other Names (variants)                 | Maps and Other Sources Using Other Name or Applications (include scale and date) |
|--|--|--|
| 1854 RAILROAD SURVEY<br>LED BY EDWARD G.                               | FEATURE IS NOW KNOWN<br>AS SECRET PASS |  |
| BECKWITH, CORPS OF<br>TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS                          |  |  |
| *SCALE UNKNOWN*  |  |  |

**Name Information** (such as origin, meaning of the recommended name, historical significance, biographical data (if commemorative), nature of usage or application, or any other pertinent information):

Is the recommended name in local usage? Yes No If yes, for approximately how many years? \_\_\_\_\_

← PLEASE SEE ATTACHED TEXT PROVIDED  
 45  
 SUBMITTED BY ROGER GASH

\* FOLLOWING WAS PROVIDED BY KEVIN LEE, NDOT ELKO DISTRICT  
ENGINEER, NOW RETIRED: "HUMBOLDT PASS UTM 11T 064758E  
4524505 NAD 83 - GPS COORDINATES" NEAR CURRENT PLOTTED FEATURE.  
9/25/22

is there local opposition to, or conflict, with the recommended name?

Yes

☒ No

(If yes, explain)

NO OPPOSITION KNOWN -

For proposed new name, please provide evidence that feature is unnamed:

Additional information:

SEE PROVIDED TEXT PROVIDED/SUBMITTED  
BY ROGER GASH

Copy Submitted By (name):

ROGER GASH

Title

N/A

Telephone (day)

775-849-1864

Date

OCT. 4, 2022

Company or Agency

N/A

Address (City, State, and ZIP Code)

3135 OLD U.S. 395 N  
WASHOE VALLEY, NV 89704

Copy Prepared By (if other than above):

Title

Phone (day)

Date

Company or Agency

Address (City, State, and ZIP Code)

Authority for Recommended Name

Mailing Address and Telephone

Occupation

Years in Area

1854 MAP - RAILROAD  
SURVEY BY TOPOGRAPHICAL  
ENGINEER -

USGS

✓

✓

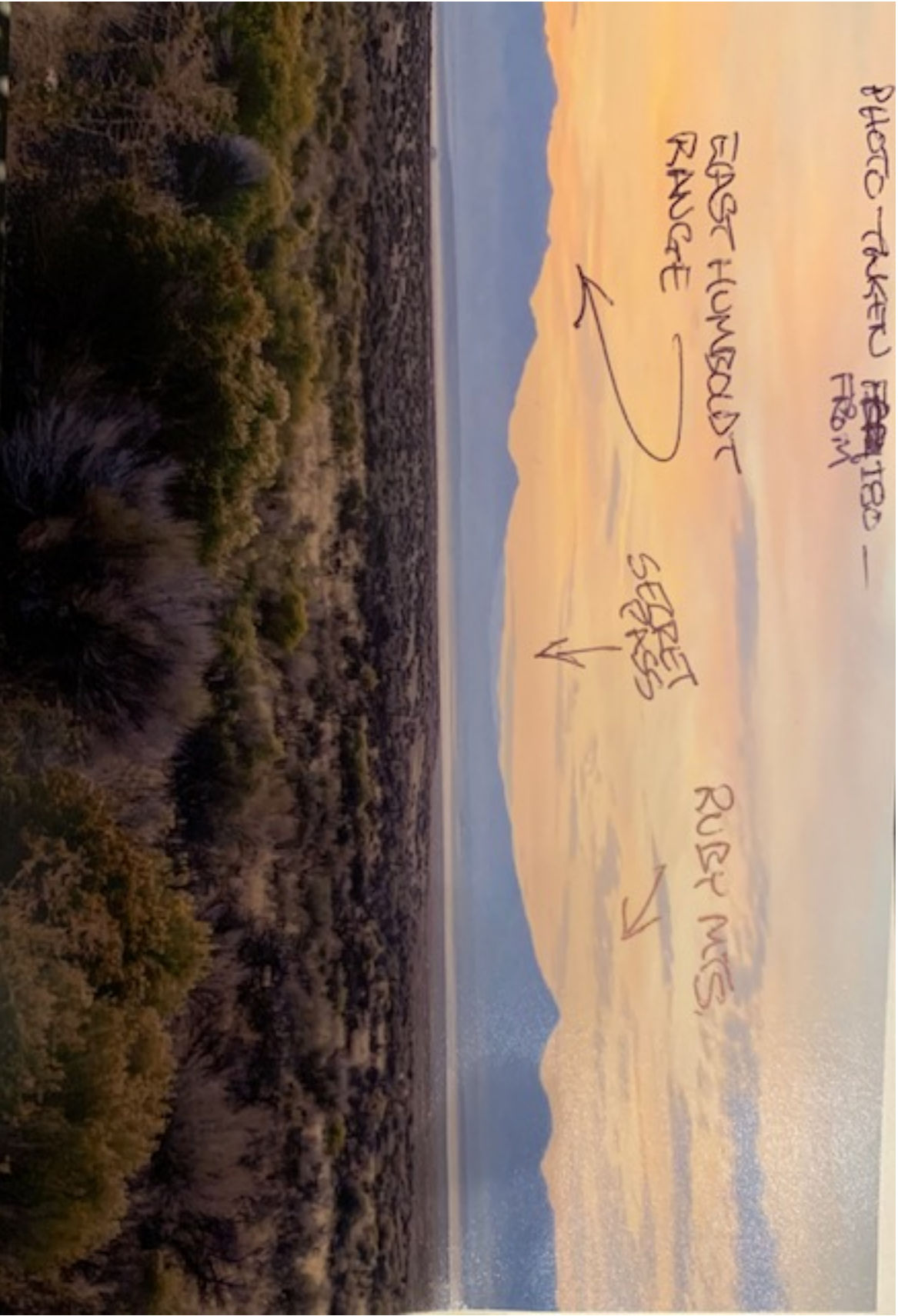


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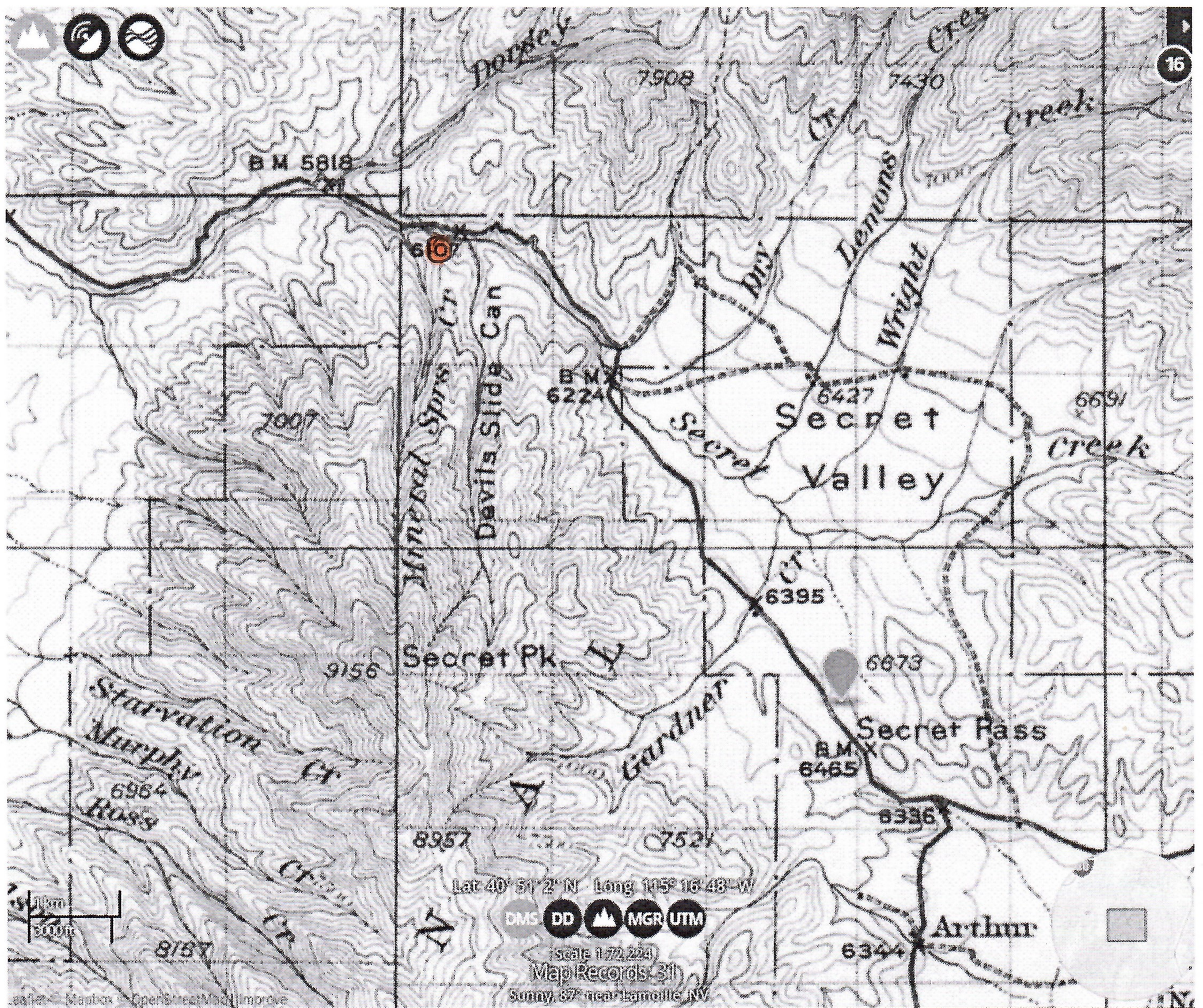
EAST HUMBOLDT  
RANGE

SEPT  
SEPT

RUBY MTS.







● CURRENT USGS FEATURE  
FOR HUMBOLDT PASS





Humboldt Pass is now Secret Pass

An 1854 railroad survey was led by Edward G. Beckwith, a U.S. Army officer and member of the Corps of Topographical Engineer. A map from this U.S. survey is provided with Humboldt Pass in the same location as the later adopted Secret Pass name. The current USGS plotting of Humboldt Pass is incorrect, it should be at Secret Pass.

Later unreliable maps were used to come to an apparent conclusion that the current USGS topographic map plotting of the Secret Pass should be retained. This plotting is at a dubious location far downslope from Secret Pass where there is no pass. The 1854 map appears to be a most dependable historical source - prepared by a predecessor entity to USGS.

USGS has opinions from Jon Nowlin, a former USGS director for Nevada, and Larry Schmidt, advisor to the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names, that Humboldt Pass is one and the same as Secret Pass. Elbie Bentley, a former USGS employee, now a contract cartographer, also agrees. Conversations with local residents, users of the pass for access, and area historians provide additional agreement. All supporting evidence is available to substantiate what is said here.

This is a pass with significant historical importance for Nevada, crossed by Peter Skene Ogden, John Fremont, Lansford Hastings, Jim Clyman, James Hudspeth, Edwin Bryant, James Denver, others, plus before, and at that time, well traversed by the large population of indigenous peoples living along the Humboldt River and Ruby Valley south of the pass.

For USGS from:

Roger Gash

3135 Old U.S. 395 N.

Washoe Valley, NV 89704

[906 Deer Ln., Lamoille, NV]

775-849-1864 Home

775-315-3192 Cell

[rcgash@gmail.com](mailto:rcgash@gmail.com)



Quoting Elbie Bentley, a contract map cartographer:

"... in looking at just a few maps from different time-periods it was easy for me to see that A. the pass originally had a different name; B. the name gradually changed to Secret Pass; and C. the current USGS topoquad includes both names, which is both sloppy and incorrect. I would push the USGS to change this."