August 5, 2014

Mr. Lou Yost
Executive Secretary
Domestic Names Committee
United States Board on Geographic Names
523 National Center
Reston, VA 20192-0523

Dear Mr. Yost,

As Montana's State Geographic Names Advisor, I recommend that the Domestic Names Committee approve the proposal from Review List 410 to amend the application of the name Nursery Creek in Jefferson County, Montana from the west branch of the stream shown on maps to the east branch.

The proponent has submitted photographs of the valleys containing the two branches shown on maps. The photo of the western valley shows no evidence that it ever contains flowing surface water. The eastern valley has a stream bed with water flowing in it. Links to these photographs are available at http://msl.mt.gov/geonames/Proposal.asp?ID=41001.

The Montana Water Resources Division has informed me that it considers this proposal to be a watercourse name change covered by Montana law (Title 85, Part 2, Section 131) that requires a District Court to approve the name. The Montana Water Quality Planning Bureau (the proponent) and the Montana steward of the National Hydrography Dataset at the State Library believe that the current application of the name is a cartographic error originating on a medium-scale USGS topographic map that has been propagated to the 1:24,000 scale map series.

I agree with the proponent that the proposal is for the correction of a minor cartographic error. I do not believe it is a name change which the state law would apply to. I decided that the change is not significant enough to require solicitation of public comments or consideration by the Jefferson County commissioners. If the Domestic Name Committee feels that I have considered this proposal too lightly, then the proponent and I would agree that the proposal should be denied.

Sincerley yours,

Gerald J Daumiller
Montana State Library