

## **New names Bucks Balancing Rock and Mammoth Arch**

### **Proposal Information**

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Proposal type	make official names in local use
Proponent	Randy Cowdin; Washington, UT
Date proposed	1/8/2025
BGN case number	6450, 6451
Quarterly Review List	459
USGS primary topo map	House Park Butte 1:24,000
State(s)	Utah
County(s)	San Juan County
PLSS	Sec 61, T32S, R19E, Salt Lake Base and Meridian
Land ownership	Bureau of Land Management land / Bears Ears National Monument

### **BGN decisions**

None

### **Other Names**

Unpublished names: None found

Published names: None found

The names Mammoth Arch and Bucks Balancing Rock are proposed for an arch and a pillar, respectively, located in San Juan County along Beef Basin Road. The features are on Bureau of Land Management land within Bears Ears National Monument. The formations are situated approximately 200 to 400 feet apart, with Mammoth Arch lying furthest to the northeast and closest to the road. According to the proponent, both names have been in local use for over fifty years.

## **Bucks Balancing Rock**

### **Feature Details**

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Primary coordinates	37.9720288, -109.8310089
Feature class	pillar
Feature size	100 ft. high
Feature description	0.1 mi. SW of Bucks Balancing Rock (q.v.), 1.7 mi. NE of House Park Butte
Name history	local name that may refer to buck deer that frequent the area

### **Case Summary**

This proposal is to make official the local name Bucks Balancing Rock for an approximately 100-foot-tall pillar approximately 0.1 miles southwest of Mammoth Arch (q.v.). The proponent states:

. . . These names have been passed down to our exploration group for over 50 years. The origin [of the name] is unknown. It is rumored to be where buck deer were historically found.

The [rock] is a large balancing feature delicately standing as a lone sentinel in the sandstone hilly area. It rivals the famous Balancing Rock in Arches National Monument near Moab, Utah. It will readily become a famous off-road photo shoot destination along with the “Mammoth Arch” nearby.

The significance and a relatively unknown feature in addition to nearby Ruin Park will provide the public additional opportunities that they did not know existed. It does not have any special historical importance that I am aware of.

The feature is very bit as impressive as some of the balancing rock features in Arches National Park, near Moab, Utah. The public would appreciate knowing of its existence and beauty so they can visit before it deteriorates, or disappears like some of the fallen balancing rocks. (In early February, 1976, there were days when no one drove through the park. So we aren’t sure when “Chip Off The Old Block” collapsed.)

## **Mammoth Arch**

### **Feature Details**

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Primary coordinates	37.9727435, -109.8296075
Feature class	arch
Feature size	~140 ft. high
Feature description	0.1 mi. NE of Bucks Balancing Rock (q.v.), 1.7 mi. NE of House Park Butte
Name history	local descriptive name referencing the shape of the arch

### **Case Summary**

This proposal is to make official the local name Mammoth Arch for an approximately 140-foot-tall arch adjacent to Beef Basin Road, approximately 0.1 miles northeast of Bucks Balancing Rock (q.v.). The proponent states:

. . . These names have been passed down to our exploration group for over 50 years. The origin is unknown.

The appearance. . . resembles a stout “Mammoth”, rather than an “Elephant”, (Which name “Elephant Arch”, has already in use in Washington County, Utah)

The name is appropriate with the appearance as you can see from the photos, is a large arch feature standing as a lone sentinel in the sandstone hilly area. It rivals the famous arches in Arches National Monument near Moab, Utah. It will readily become a famous off-road photo shoot destination along with the “Bucks Balancing Rock” formation nearby.

The significance and a relatively unknown feature in addition to nearby Ruin Park will provide the public additional opportunities that they did not know existed. It does not have any special historical importance that I am aware of.

The feature is every bit as impressive as some of the arches in Arches National Park, and Elephant Arch in Washington County, Utah. The public would appreciate knowing of its existence and beauty so they can visit before it deteriorates, or disappears like some of the fallen arches, (“Wall Arch” in 2008, Devils Garden, Utah).

### Stakeholder Input

Local government	San Juan County Board of Commissioners	
State Names Authority	Utah Committee on Geographic Names	
Federal Agency	Bureau of Land Management	
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	





"Mammoth Arch"

37.97210 -109.83090 "Bucks Balancing Rock"





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# THE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE PROPOSAL FORM

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This document is for those interested in proposing:

1. **A new name for a currently unnamed geographic feature, or**
2. **A change to an existing name, spelling, or where a name is applied.**

By submitting this form, the proponent acknowledges the BGN Policies and agrees to work with BGN staff regarding their proposal.





# 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. Download and email this form and supporting documentation to:  
[BGNESEC@usgs.gov](mailto:BGNESEC@usgs.gov)

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)

- i. Save PDF using this format:  
'*State\_GeographicNameProposed*'  
ii. Email Subject: *ST\_GeographicName*

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

## Naming Basics

Proposed Name:

Bucks Balancing Rock

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).*

Is this name in current local use? ☒ Y ☐ N

What is the Feature Type?

Pillar

GNIS Name:

GNIS ID:

## Location Basics



Where is the feature?

Latitude: 37.97210 (38.94741)

Longitude: -109.83090 (-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: Utah

County: San Juan

City/Town/  
Township/  
Borough: Monticello Area

*Public Land Survey System:*

*Section(s), Township, Range, Meridian*

Section 28, Township 32 South,  
Range 19 East, Salt Lake Base and  
Meridian, State of Utah.



## Feature Description

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

"Bucks Balancing Rock", is a medium sized natural sandstone pillar that is a balancing rock feature near Beef Basin, a rather remote area in Utah that is just south of the Needles District of Canyon Lands National Park, and according to at least one map within the boundary of Bears Ears National Monument. Utah, United States. The balancing rock out-cropping, is only about 360 feet from Road #104 of the Beef Basin Road, Utah. (Photo Attached)

The "Bucks Balancing Rock", is only about 200 feet away from "Mammoth Arch" which is a very impressive formation on its own, located on the same road. These names have been passed down to our exploration group for over 50 years. The origin is unknown, but it is believed to have been passed down from the early inhabitants.

The area is divided into six main sections: House Park, Middle Park, Ruin Park, Beef Basin Wash, Beef Basin and Ruin Canyon. Beef Basin's main attraction is its dense population of ruins that mainly include pueblo style structures, cliff dwellings and rock shelters.

At one time the Beef Basin area was better visited and its roads were in better condition. At present the roads in Ruin Park are still in pretty good shape and can be driven with 2wd vehicles although 4wd is highly recommended for accessing the area. Currently the north side of the Beef Basin Loop is so washed out that it is barely passable in places with 4wd. Beef Basin Wash and Ruin Canyon are both overgrown with brush and require 4wd.

## 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.*

The "Bucks Balancing Rock", is only about 200 feet away from "Mammoth Arch" which is a very impressive formation on its own, located on the same road. These names have been passed down to our exploration group for over 50 years. The origin is unknown. It is rumored to be where buck deer were historically found.

The name is appropriate with the appearance as you can see from the photos, is a large balancing feature delicately standing as a lone sentinel in the sandstone hilly area. It rivals the famous Balancing Rock in Arches National Monument near Moab, Utah. I will readily become a famous off-road photo shoot destination along with the "Mammoth Arch" nearby.

The significance and a relatively unknown feature in addition to nearby Ruin Park will provide the public additional opportunities that they did not know existed. It does not have any special historical importance that I am aware of.

The feature is every bit as impressive as some of the balancing rock features in Arches National Park, near Moab, Utah. The public would appreciate knowing of its existence and beauty so they can visit before it deteriorates, or disappears like some of the fallen balancing rocks, (In early February, 1976, there were days when no one drove through the park. So we aren't sure when "Chip Off the Old Block" collapsed.)

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.).*

N/A



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)*

N/A

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.*

The Bears Ears National Monument is the 12th national monument managed by the Forest Service; it is the fifth to be managed jointly by the Forest Service and BLM. Monuments generally preserve current uses of the land, including tribal access for traditional plant and firewood gathering and for ceremonial purposes, off-highway recreation on existing routes, grazing, hunting and fishing and water and utility infrastructure.

Bears Ears is a popular hunting, fishing, climbing, hiking and off-highway vehicle destination. Today, cyclists and motorists can follow the path of 19th-century Mormon pioneers along the rugged Hole in the Rock Trail. The Dark Canyon recreation area on the Manti-La Sal National Forest attracts hikers and backpackers and Elk Ridge and the Abajo Mountains draw hunters from across the world.



Is the name you are proposing intended to honor Native Americans, their language, or culture? ☐ Y ☒ N

*If yes, to ensure that the proposed name is appropriate, the BGN strongly advises proponents to work with Tribal Leaders, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and/or Native American linguists or other expert(s) associated with the Tribe to determine the acceptability of the proposed name and application. Please review the BGN's Cultural Sensitivity for Native American Names guidance.*

*Proponents should also seek letters of endorsement from the governments (e.g., Tribal Councils) of any affected Tribes. Please indicate below, or in documentation submitted separately (with this proposal or any time after the proposal is submitted), any efforts to solicit Tribal input.*

## Additional Information +

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

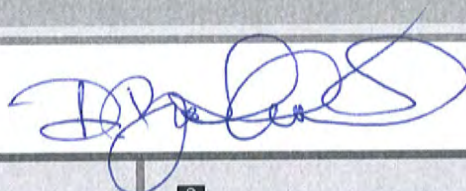
*If yes, please explain and describe any opposition:*

N/A

Additional notes, including any Tribal input details

N/A

## Proponent Information



*Please provide one form of contact (email preferred):*



Proponent's Name: R. Dean Cowdin

Agency or Organization, if applicable:

n/a



Email: rbutkus51@msn.com



Mailing Address: 563 South Balancing Rock Drive  
Washington, Utah, USA 84780



Phone: +1.435.879.1010



Are you completing this form for someone else?

☐ Y ☒ N

*If yes, please fill out the following:*

Completed by:

Full Name:

Email:

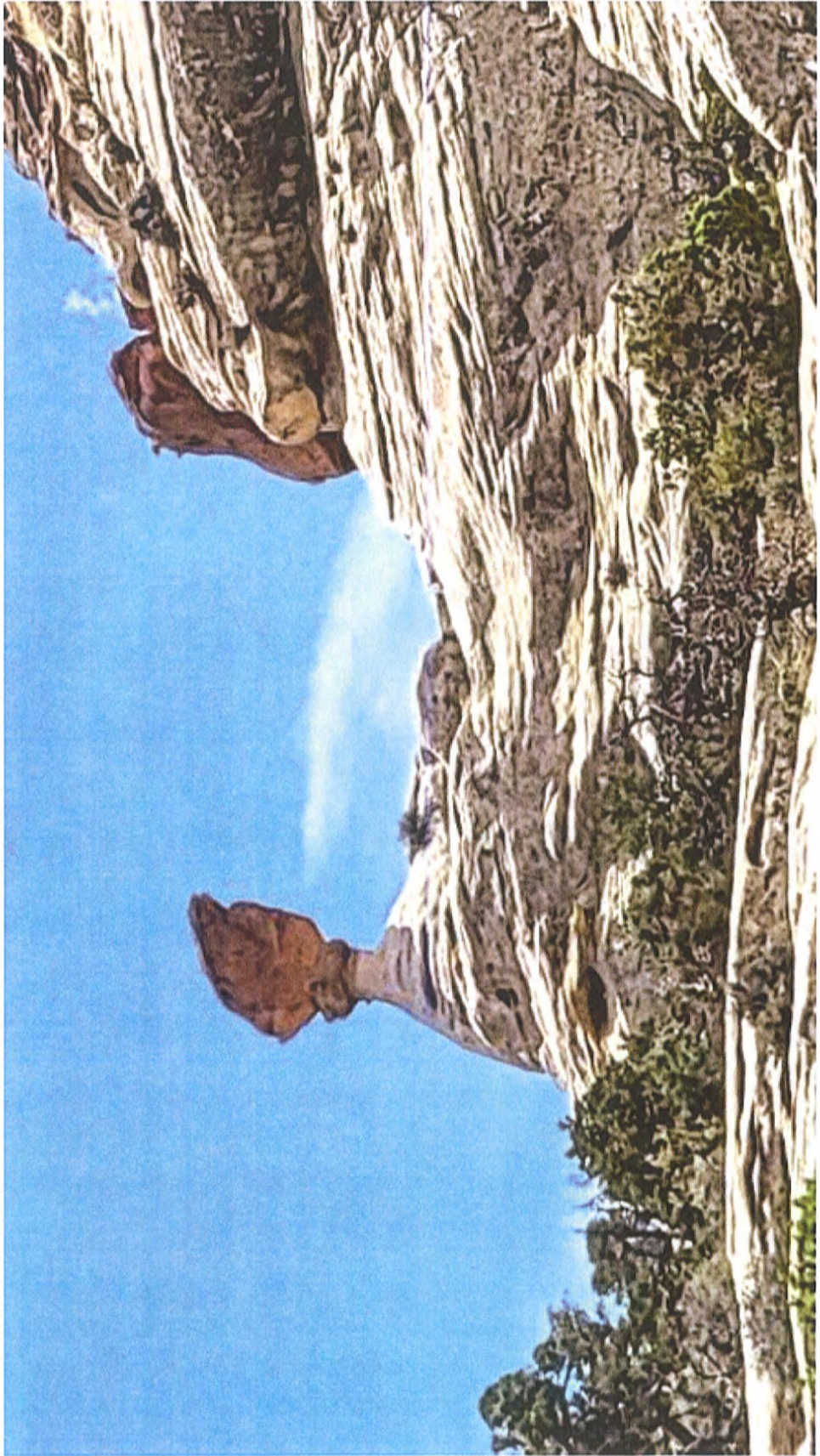
Mailing Address:

Phone:















Stanley Spring, UT, US





BUCK'S BALANCING ROCK

361.51 ft





BALANCING ROCK (PILLAR)

BeefBasin Rd

104



LAT 37.9721

LONG -109.8309





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# THE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE PROPOSAL FORM

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and agrees to work with BGN staff regarding their proposal.



VERSION 2.0.2

BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE

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703-217-2762

BGNExec@usgs.gov  
TNM\_Help@usgs.gov

1-888-275-8747  
✓ 392, 8545

JENNIFER RUNYON, RESEARCH STAFF



# Domestic Geographic Name Proposal Form

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Reston, VA 20192

Contact Us:

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

- i. Save PDF using this format:  
'State\_GeographicNameProposed'  
ii. Email Subject: *ST\_GeographicName*

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

## Naming Basics

Proposed Name:

Mammoth Arch

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).*

Is this name in current local use? ☒ Y ☐ N

What is the Feature Type?

Arch

GNIS Name:

GNIS ID:

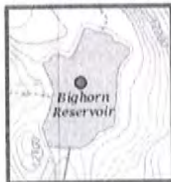
## Location Basics



Where is the feature?

Latitude: 37.97270 (38.94741)

Longitude: -109.82860 (-77.36839)



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

Mouth/Confluence

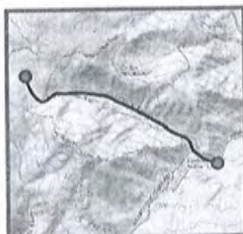
Latitude: (38.94741)

Longitude: (-77.36839)

Source/Headwater

Latitude: (38.94741)

Longitude: (-77.36839)



*General Location:*

State: Utah

County: San Juan

City/Town/  
Township/  
Borough: Monticello Area

*Public Land Survey System:*

*Section(s), Township, Range, Meridian*

Section 28, Township 32 South,  
Range 19 East, Salt Lake Base and  
Meridian, State of Utah.



## Feature Description

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

"Mammoth Arch" is a medium sized natural sandstone arch in the near Beef Basin, a rather remote area in Utah that is just south of the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park, and according to at least one map within the boundary of Bears Ears National Monument, Utah, United States. The arch, which resembles the shape, back and trunk and eye of an Woolly Mammoth, is only about 50 feet from Road #104 of the Beef Basin Road, Utah. (Photo Attached)

The "Mammoth Arch" is only about 200 feet away from "Bucks Balancing Rock", which is a very impressive formation on its own, located on the same road. These names have been passed down to our exploration group for over 50 years. The origin is unknown.

The area is divided into 6 main sections; House Park, Middle Park, Ruin Park, Beef Basin Wash, Beef Basin and Ruin Canyon. Beef Basin's main attraction is its dense population of ruins that mainly include pueblo style structures, cliff dwellings and rock shelters.

At one time the Beef Basin area was better visited and its roads were in better condition. At present the roads in Ruin Park are still in pretty good shape and can be driven with 2wd vehicles although 4wd is highly recommended for accessing the area. Currently the north side of the Beef Basin Loop is so washed out that it is barely passable in places with 4wd. Beef Basin Wash and Ruin Canyon are both overgrown with brush and require 4wd.

## Name Details

### Name information:

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The appearance as you can see from the photos, resembles a stout "Mammoth", rather than an "Elephant", (Which name "Elephant Arch", has already in use in Washington, County, Utah)

The name is appropriate with the appearance as you can see from the photos, is a large arch feature standing as a lone sentinel in the sandstone hilly area. It rivals the famous arches in Arches National Monument near Moab, Utah. It will readily become a famous off-road photo shoot destination along with the "Bucks Balancing Rock" formation nearby.

The significance and a relatively unknown feature in addition to nearby Ruin Park will provide the public additional opportunities that they did not know existed. It does not have any special historical importance that I am aware of.

The feature is every bit as impressive as some of the arches in Arches National Park, and Elephant Arch in Washington County, Utah. The public would appreciate knowing of its existence and beauty so they can visit before it deteriorates, or disappears like some of the fallen arches, ("Wall Arch" in 2008, Devils Garden, Utah).

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.).*

N/A



Is the name commemorative? Does the name honor or refer to a person or persons? ☐ Y ☒ N

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*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)*

N/A

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.*

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## Additional Information +

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

*If yes, please explain and describe any opposition:*

N/A

Additional notes, including any Tribal input details

N/A

## Proponent Information

*Please provide one form of contact (email preferred):*



Proponent's Name: R. Dean Cowdin

Agency or Organization, if applicable:

n/a



Email: rbutkus51@msn.com



Mailing Address: 563 South Balancing Rock Drive  
Washington, Utah, USA 84780



Phone: +1.435.879.1010



Are you completing this form for someone else?

☐ Y ☒ N

*If yes, please fill out the following:*

Completed by:

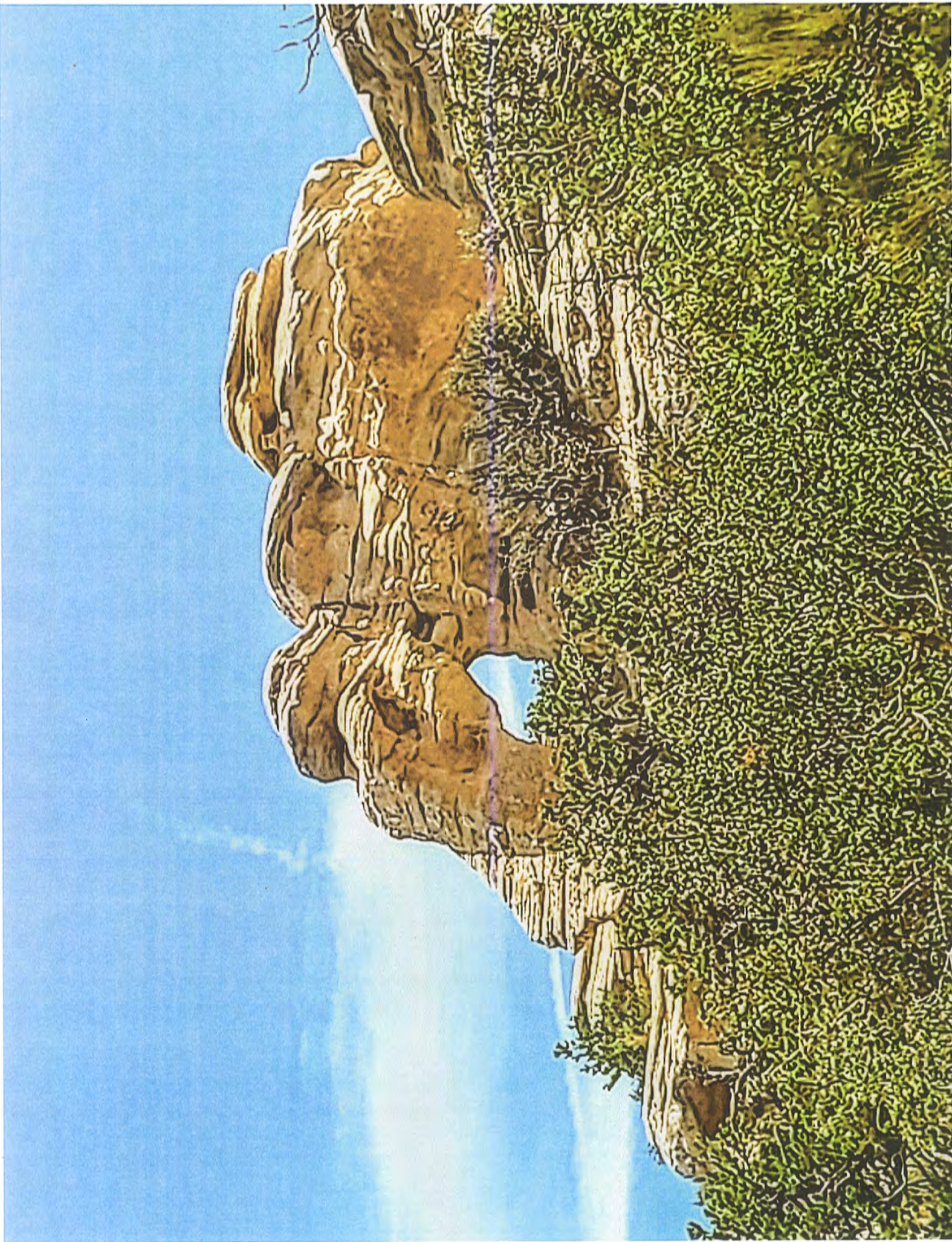
Full Name:

Email:

Mailing Address:

Phone:











Stanley Spring, UT, US





Beef Basin Rd



104

LAT 37.9727  
LONG -109.8296



Address



MAMMOTH ARCH

30.50 ft

MAMMOTH ARCH

Unit

Imperial

Distance

30.50 ft

Ne