



## Hopkins Mountain

### Proposal Information

Proposed name	<b>Hopkins Mountain</b>
Proposal type	new commemorative name for unnamed feature
Proponent	Jeffrey W. Bolander; McGaheysville, VA
Date proposed	7/9/2023
BGN case number	6094
Quarterly Review List	453

### Feature Details

Primary coordinates	38.43685, -78.71549
Feature class	ridge
Feature size	4 mi. long
Feature description	Located on First Mountain, extending SW from Runkles Gap to Harshberger Gap, includes Hartman Knob
Name history	Named for John L. ("J.L.") Hopkins, III (1927-2018), farmer, entrepreneur, and developer who had a long-term association with the mountain
USGS primary topo map	Elkton West 1:24000
State(s)	Virginia
County(s)	Rockingham County
Land ownership	George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

### **BGN decisions**

- None

### **Other Names**

- Unpublished names: None found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

### Case Summary

The new commemorative name Hopkins Mountain is proposed for an unnamed four-mile-long section of First Mountain on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests in Rockingham County. The name is intended to be applied to the section extending southwest from Runkles Gap to Harshberger Gap, the highest point of which is Hartman Knob, at an elevation of 2,646 ft.

The proponent, who was associated with the honoree through the McGaheysville Ruritans, is proposing the name to commemorate John L. (“J.L.”) Hopkins, III (1927-2018). He states:

This proposal seeks to designate an area of approximately five square miles as Hopkins Mountain in memory of an exceptional individual that made a significant and long-lasting impact on the communities of McGaheysville and Massanutten. The area is a portion of First Mountain and the [larger range named] Massanutten Mountain. Both names would continue to be used for the larger geographic features that include [the proposed] Hopkins Mountain. [This section] has direct ties to [Mr. Hopkins] as the inspiration for what is today known as Massanutten Resort and Massanutten Village.

Many generations of the Hopkins family have resided in Rockingham County since the early 1700s. As early as 1874, J.L. Hopkins’ great-grandfather managed Rockingham Springs, located on the east slope of Massanutten Mountain, which would inspire the founding of Massanutten Development Inc., now known as Great Eastern Resort; the resort would eventually become a 6,000-acre year-round vacation and winter sports destination.

The intended honoree, J.L. Hopkins, was a farmer, business owner, and developer, who won a Future Farmers of America scholarship, then established the first commercial cage-laying operation in Virginia and the first USDA on-farm egg-grading operation. He also established a water company which provided public water for the local community. The proponent reports that J.L. Hopkins was proud to be a lifelong member of the McGaheysville Ruritans Club and that “his last project was to buy and recondition antique farm equipment to be displayed in a farm agricultural education center and museum of farm machinery.”

GNIS lists four features named “Hopkins” in the county, all presumably named for the family: Hopkins Ridge, Hopkins Spring, Hopkins Gap, and Hopkins Hollow. Hopkins Ridge was named for Archibald and John Hopkins, who came to the area in 1749 and owned land from there to the west. Hopkins Gap is referenced in an 1897 account of the Civil War. The proposal states that nearby Hopkins Pond, Hopkins Park, and Hopkins Cabin are also named for Mr. Hopkins or other members of the family; none of these are recorded in GNIS.

### **Stakeholder Input**

Local government	Rockingham County	
State Names Authority	Virginia Board on Geographic Names	
Federal Agency	U.S. Forest Service	
Federally Recognized Tribes	All federally recognized Tribes contacted under Policy X	
Other	Massanutten Property Owners Association Board of Directors	Support*
	McGaheysville Ruritans Club [proponent]	Support

\* Solicited by proponent