

Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop, Chairman
Hearing Memorandum

July 24, 2017

To: All Subcommittee on Federal Lands Members

From: Majority Committee Staff – Chris Marklund
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x 6-7736)

Markup: **H.R. 2768 (Rep. Scott Tipton)**, To designate certain mountain peaks in the State of Colorado as `Fowler Peak' and `Boskoff Peak'.
July 25 & 26, 2017; 1324 Longworth HOB

Summary of the Bill

The “Fowler and Boskoff Peaks Designation Act” would designate two unnamed peaks in the Uncompahgre National Forest as Fowler Peak and Boskoff Peak.

Background

Charlie Fowler and his partner Christine “Chris” Boskoff were long-time residents of San Miguel County, Colorado, and avid alpinists.

One of North America’s most experienced mountain climbers, Charlie Fowler was an author, guide, filmmaker, photographer and advocate for the outdoors. Beginning in the mid-1980s, Fowler worked full time as a mountain guide, leading mountaineering expeditions in the United States and abroad. His photographs and articles were published in a variety of books and magazines and he was the author of multiple mountaineering guidebooks.¹ In 2004, the American Alpine Society awarded the Robert and Miriam Underhill Award, an honor given annually to an individual who “has demonstrated the highest level of skill in the mountaineering arts and who, through the application of this skill, courage, and perseverance, has achieved outstanding success in the various fields of mountaineering endeavor”.²

Christine “Chris” Boskoff began her climbing career in 1993 and quickly rose to become a leader in the sport of mountaineering.³ During her climbing career, Boskoff summited Mount Everest and five other of the globe’s more than 26,000-foot mountains.⁴ One of the world’s

¹ Fowler, Charlie. "A Personal History." Mountain Madness, n.d. Web. 19 July 2017.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20071201110234/http://www.mountainmadness.com:80/about/fowler.cfm>.

² "The Robert and Miriam Underhill Award." The American Alpine Club. N.p., n.d. Web. 19 July 2017.

<https://americanalpineclub.org/the-robert-and-miriam-underhill-award>.

³ "Chris Boskoff." Rock and Ice Magazine. Big Stone Publishing, 2016. Web. 19 July 2017.

<http://www.rockandice.com/climbing/people/chris-boskoff>.

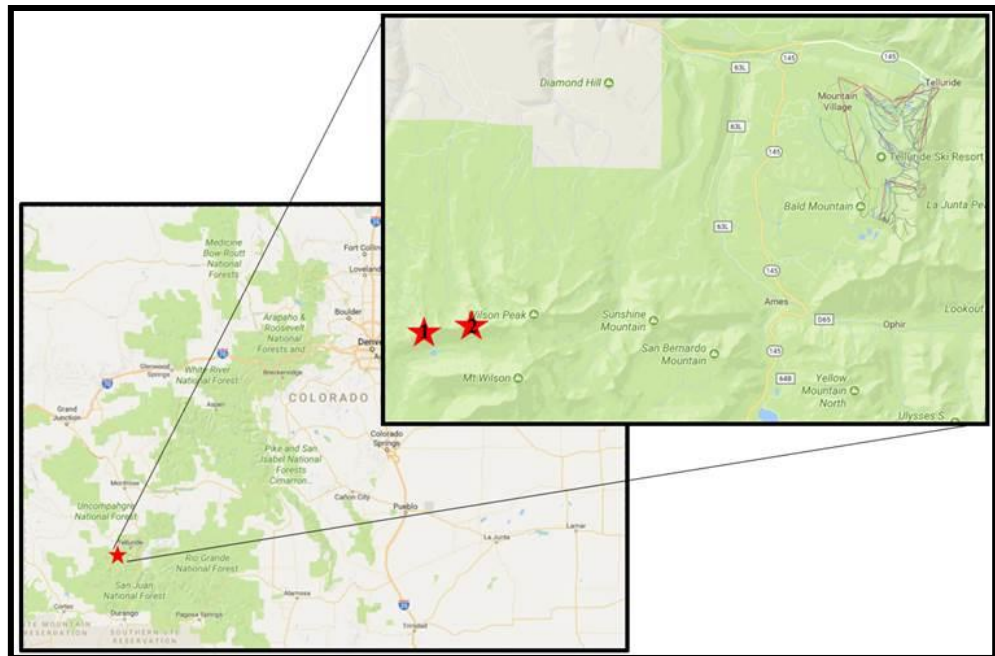
⁴ Serrano, Alfonso. "Missing Climber's Body Found In China." CBS News. CBS Interactive, 09 July 2007. Web. 19 July 2017. <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/missing-climbers-body-found-in-china/>.

leading female alpinists, a professional mountaineering guide and adventure travel entrepreneur, Boskoff participated in numerous expeditions in the United States and on five continents.⁵

Fowler and Boskoff were also known for their philanthropic work. Fowler worked to promote his sport by installing climbing walls in schools across southwest Colorado. Boskoff actively participated in non-profit organizations that supported the rights of porters and Sherpas, women's education, global literacy and gender equality.

Tragically, Fowler and Boskoff passed away in an avalanche in November 2006 while exploring a series of unclimbed summits in China's Sichuan province.⁶

H.R. 2768, the "Fowler and Boskoff Peaks Designation Act," was introduced by Congressman Scott Tipton (R-CO) on May 30, 2017. The bill names two currently unnamed 13,000-foot proximate peaks in the Uncompahgre National Forest after Charlie Fowler and Christine Boskoff.



Map noting the approximate locations of the proposed Boskoff Peak (1) and Fowler Peak (2). **Source:** Google Maps

H.R. 2768 is supported by a coalition of local

and national groups including: the San Miguel County Board of County Commissioners, the Dolores County Board of County Commissioners, the Access Fund, the American Alpine, the Telluride Ski and Golf Resort, the American Mountain Guides Associations, the Colorado Mountain Club, the Mountain Film Board of Directors, Osprey Packs, Wright Stuff Community Foundation.⁷

⁵ "In Remembrance Christine Boskoff." Mountain Madness. Mountain Madness, Inc., 2017. Web. 19 July 2017. <http://www.mountainmadness.com/resources/reference-materials/in-remembrance-christine-boskoff>.

⁶ Bunch, Joey. "Peaks in Southwest Colorado Get Congressional Attention for Climbers Fowler and Boskoff." Colorado Politics. N.p., 26 May 2017. Web. 19 July 2017. <https://coloradopolitics.com/peaks-colorado-fowler-boskoff/#lightbox/0/>.

⁷ Ibid.

Major Provisions of the Legislation

Section 1: Short Title

Section 2: Findings

Section 3: Provides specific coordinates and designates the 13,498-foot mountain peak in the Uncompahgre National Forest as “Fowler Peak.” Provides specific coordinates and designates the 13,123-foot mountain peak in the Uncompahgre National Forest as “Boskoff Peak.” Makes provisions to deem the adoption of the peak names in official documents of the United States.

Administration Position

The Administration’s position on H.R. 3115 is unknown at this time.

Cost

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.