



State of Alaska  
Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Sport Fish

Nomination Form  
Anadromous Waters Catalog



Region INT USGS Quad(s) CHANDALAR A-1,A-2,A-3,A-4,B-4

AWC Number of Water Body 334-40-11000-2925-3350

Name of Water body  USGS Name  Local Name

Addition  Deletion  Correction  Backup Information

For Office Use

Nomination #	<u>15-781</u>	<u>James J. Harshbarger</u>	<u>10/26/2015</u>
		Fisheries Scientist	Date
Revision Year:	<u>2016</u>	<u>Michelle Post</u>	<u>10/26/15</u>
Revision to:	Atlas _____ Catalog <u>X</u>	Habitat Operations Manager	Date
	Both _____	<u>JJ</u>	<u>14 Oct 15</u>
		AWC Project Biologist	Date
Revision Code:	<u>C-2</u>	<u>T.A.</u>	<u>10/26/15</u>
		GIS Analyst	Date

OBSERVATION INFORMATION

Species	Date(s) Observed	Spawning	Rearing	Present	Anadromous
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>
					<input type="checkbox"/>

**IMPORTANT:** Provide all supporting documentation that this water body is important for the spawning, rearing or migration of anadromous fish, including: number of fish and life stages observed; sampling methods, sampling duration and area sampled; copies of field notes; etc. Attach a copy of a map showing location of mouth and observed upper extent of each species, as well as other information such as: specific stream reaches observed as spawning or rearing habitat; locations, types, and heights of any barriers; etc.

**Comments**  
USGS Geographic Names Board have changed names for 334-40-11000-2925 (Chandalar River) & 334-40-11000-2925-3350 (North Fork Chandalar River). Change name to Teedriinjik River (Chandalar River) for 334-40-11000-2925 and Teedriinjik River (North Fork Chandalar River) for 334-40-11000-2925-3350). Include previous name in parenthesis.

Name of Observer (please print): J. Johnson  
Signature: [Signature] Date: 9/30/2015  
Agency: ADFG - SF  
Address: 333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518

This certifies that in my best professional judgment and belief the above information is evidence that this waterbody should be included in or deleted from the Anadromous Waters Catalog.

Signature of Area Biologist: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Revision 11/13  
Name of Area Biologist (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

# Alaska Dispatch News

Published on *Alaska Dispatch News* (<http://www.adn.com>)

[Home](#) > Feds recognize Native names of major Alaska river system

[Asaf Shalev](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

October 11, 2015

**Main Image:**

[Chandalar](#) <sup>[2]</sup>

A major river system in Interior Alaska formerly designated Chandalar will now be known by its two Native names, Teedriinjik River and Ch'idriinjik River.

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names decided last month to officially restore the Gwich'in originals despite a recommendation by the Alaska Historical Commission against the change.

"It is somewhat unusual for the U.S. board to go against the state names authority's decision," said Jennifer Runyon, a senior staffer at the federal body. "But the U.S. board found the argument for the change more convincing."

Teedriinjik, which means shimmering river, refers to the main stream and its northern tributary. Ch'idriinjik, or heart river -- in association with a nearby mountain -- is another tributary of the same Arctic river system.

The two names have been in use for over a thousand years by the local Athabascan people, according to the application submitted last year by Edward Alexander, the former Second Chief of the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government. The official adoption of the names would "help revitalize Gwich'in culture and language," he wrote.

Alexander described the federal decision as "very good news" in a recent Facebook post, adding that he is "thankful for all the work of our elders in the villages who began this work." He could not be reached for additional comment for this story.

Teedriinjik and Ch'idriinjik represent the latest examples in a big year for Native place names in Alaska. In July, Wade Hampton Census Area, which was named after a slaveholding Civil War general, became Kusilvak Census Area. Then in August, the Obama administration announced that the Koyukon Athabascan name Denali would take the place of Mount McKinley, after decades of campaigning by Alaskans.

The decision on Denali was made at the White House, but name changes are typically made by the more-obscure U.S. Board on Geographic Names. Operating within the U.S. Geological Survey, the board is made up of representatives from a variety of federal agencies.

The federal body has a "conservative" approach when considering name changes because of the risk of causing confusion, Runyon said. But widespread local use of a proposed name can help overcome the reticence to alter official geographic designations, she said.

Tanana Chiefs Conference, which represents 37 federally recognized tribal governments in the region, endorsed the formal adoption of Teedriinjik and Ch'idriinjik. The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments also sent a letter of support later in the renaming process.

"The only people who use these areas regularly are Alaska Native communities," said Runyon, who is a research geographer by profession. The name Chandalar is about 150 years old and "a blip compared to the Native history of the name," she added.

The U.S. board is also considering proposals by Alexander to recognize the Native names of nearby Birch Creek and Beaver Creek but a legal technicality has stalled that decision.

Last November, the Alaska Historical Commission, under former Lt. Gov. Mead Treadwell, voted 6 -1 against restoring the Native names citing lack of evidence for widespread use and a concern over the difficulty in pronunciation.

The sole commissioner who supported the change at the state level was vice chair Jonathon Ross, the Alaska Native representative.

"I believed (Alexander) did have enough evidence to support the application and the feds did too," Ross said. "I really want to see more the Native names represented. That's my official position on the commission."

Commissioner Michael Hawfield, who voted with the majority, said the proposal sparked a "long and interesting" discussion and that all the commissioners have "great sympathy for using Native place names when it makes sense."

Last year, the commission supported the proposal to recognize the Gwich'in name Draanjik River for the body of water formerly known as Black River in the eastern Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area.

The name Chandalar, however, had gained "historical significance" over the past hundred years, Hawfield said, adding that it is easier to pronounce for more Alaskans.

He also said there was no empirical evidence regarding which name is most common for the river system and that the commissioners had to rely on their own familiarity with the state and its people. "A great deal of our thinking was guided by our knowledge of the use of the river," he said.

"It was just too big a change for a large number of Alaskans who are not indigenous," said Hawfield, who represents the Alaska Historical Society on the commission. "It might cause all sorts of unwanted pushback as being too politically correct."

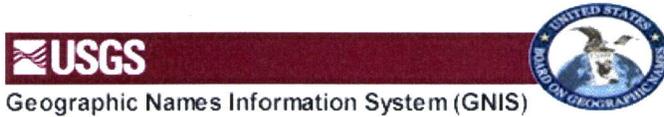
Ultimately, whatever opposition the new names may engender, the state accedes to federal authority on matters of naming, Hawfield said.

The Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manage the river system, are required to use official names. The authoritative topographic maps published by the USGS will also reflect the name change. Hiking guides, hunting clubs, books, brochures and aviation guides will all likely follow, according to Runyon.

The name Chandalar evolved from a 19th century French phrase, according to the Dictionary of Alaska Place Names. French employees of the Hudson's Bay Company named the river system "Gens de Large," or "nomadic people," after the local people they encountered, the dictionary says. Those words evolved over time to Chandalar.

James Kari, a leading linguist of Athabascan languages, praised the name change, saying that Chandalar is a derivative of "French slavery jargon."

"Native place names are pretty significant for language preservation," Kari said. "The Denali name change has pushed (preservation) forward but things move slowly."



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**Feature Detail Report for: Teedriinjik River**

**ID:** 1400141  
**Name:** Teedriinjik River  
**Class:** Stream ([Definitions](#))  
**History:** The name is the traditional Gwich'in name for the feature and means "Luminous River," "Shimmering River," or "Light Amid the Waters River". The former name, Chandalar River, derived from the name given to the Kutchin Indians along this stream by the French employees of the Hudson's Bay Company located at Fort Yukon. The French name was "Gens de Large," or "nomadic people," which, when written in English from its local pronunciation evolved into "Chandalar." Early U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) field notes spelled the name "Chand-da-larg." C. W. Raymond, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, recorded the stream's Indian name as "Achenchik" in 1869.  
**Description:** approx. 660 mi. long; heads in the Brooks Range on Bureau of Land Management land 6.4 mi. NE of Atigun Pass, 22 mi. WSW of the source of Your Creek at 68°10'59"N, 149°16'07"W, flows generally S and then SE along the boundary of and into Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge to enter the Yukon River 0.4 mi. downstream of Venetie Landing; Tps21-27N, Rgs8-1E and Tps26-37N, Rgs1-8W, Fairbanks Meridian and Tps16-14S, Rgs12&13E, Umiat Meridian  
**Citation:** U.S. Board on Geographic Names. Geographic Names Post Phase I Board/Staff Revisions. 10-Sep-2015.  
**Entry Date:** 01-Jan-2000  
**\*Elevation:** 384/117

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- [Mapping Information](#)

\*Elevations in feet/meters from the [National Elevation Dataset](#)

**Variant Names**

Variant Name	
Achenchik River	<a href="#">Citation</a>
Chand da larg River	<a href="#">Citation</a>
Chand'lar River	<a href="#">Citation</a>
Chand-da-large River	<a href="#">Citation</a>
Chandalar River	<a href="#">Citation</a>
Chandelar River	<a href="#">Citation</a>
Chandlar River	<a href="#">Citation</a>
Chandler River	<a href="#">Citation</a>
Gens de Large	<a href="#">Citation</a>
North Fork	<a href="#">Citation</a>
North Fork Chandalar River	<a href="#">Citation</a>
T'eedriinjik	<a href="#">Citation</a>
Tadrandike River	<a href="#">Citation</a>
Tatreenjik	<a href="#">Citation</a>

**Board on Geographic Names Decisions**

Name	Authority	Decision Type	BGN
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Teedriinjik River Board Decision Official 2015  
 Chandalar River Board Decision Official 1944

### **BGN Subject Folders: (Click arrow to open folder)**

Correspondence: 

Forms: 

### **Counties**

Sequence	County	Code	State	Code	Country
1	Yukon-Koyukuk (CA)	290	Alaska	02	US
2	North Slope	185	Alaska	02	US

### **Linear Feature (Stream, Valley, Arroyo) Mouth**

Sequence	Latitude(DEC)	Longitude(DEC)	Latitude(DMS)	Longitude(DMS)	Map Name
1	66.6080556	-146.0069444	663629N	1460025W	Fort Yukon C-5

### **Linear Feature (Stream, Valley, Arroyo) Source**

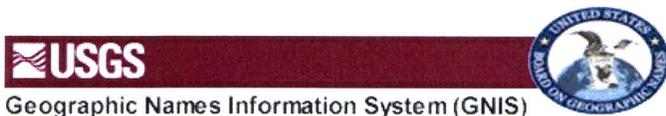
Sequence	Latitude(DEC)	Longitude(DEC)	Latitude(DMS)	Longitude(DMS)	Map Name
15	68.1830556	-149.2686111	681059N	1491607W	Philip Smith Mountains A-4

### **Coordinates (One point per USGS topographic map containing the feature, NAD83)**

Sequence	Latitude(DEC)	Longitude(DEC)	Latitude(DMS)	Longitude(DMS)	Map Name
1	66.6080556	-146.0069444	663629N	1460025W	Fort Yukon C-5
2	66.6416667	-145.9994444	663830N	1455958W	Fort Yukon C-4
3	66.7502778	-145.9808333	664501N	1455851W	Fort Yukon D-4
4	66.9994444	-146.3886111	665958N	1462319W	Fort Yukon D-5
5	67.0197222	-146.5000000	670111N	1463000W	Christian A- 5
6	67.0863889	-147.0000000	670511N	1470000W	Christian A- 6
7	67.1161111	-147.5069444	670658N	1473025W	Chandalar A-2
8	67.1705556	-148.3011111	671014N	1481804W	Chandalar A-3
9	67.1852778	-148.5002778	671107N	1483001W	Chandalar A-4
10	67.2502778	-148.7225000	671501N	1484321W	Chandalar B-4
11	67.5005556	-148.5352778	673002N	1483207W	Chandalar C-4
12	67.7513889	-148.3013889	674505N	1481805W	Chandalar D-3
13	67.8205556	-148.5013889	674914N	1483005W	Chandalar D-4

14	67.8494444	-149.0013889	675058N	1490005W	Chandalar D-5
15	68.1830556	-149.2686111	681059N	1491607W	Philip Smith Mountains A-4

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### Feature Detail Report for: Ch'idriinjik River

ID: 1406290  
 Name: Ch'idriinjik River  
 Class: [Stream \(Definitions\)](#)  
 History: The name is from the Gwich'in language and means "heart river". approx. 360 mi. long; heads in the Brooks Range in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 6 mi. SE of Cloud, flows generally S into Teedriinjik River),  
 Description: 2 mi. SSW of Mary Lake; Tps27-32N, Rgs3&4,2&1W, Tps32&33N, R1E, Tps33-37N, R1W, Fairbanks Meridian and Tps16-13S, Rgs19-17E, Umiat Meridian  
 Citation: U.S. Board on Geographic Names. Geographic Names Post Phase I Board/Staff Revisions. 10-Sep-2015.  
 Entry Date: 31-Mar-1981  
 \*Elevation: 1201/366

\*Elevations in feet/meters from the [National Elevation Dataset](#)

### Variant Names

Variant Name  
 Middle Fork Chandalar River [Citation](#)

### Board on Geographic Names Decisions

Name	Authority	Decision Type	BGN
Ch'idriinjik River	Board Decision	Official	2015

### Counties

Sequence	County	Code	State	Code	Country
1	Yukon-Koyukuk (CA)	290	Alaska	02	US
2	North Slope	185	Alaska	02	US

### Linear Feature (Stream, Valley, Arroyo) Mouth

Sequence	Latitude(DEC)	Longitude(DEC)	Latitude(DMS)	Longitude(DMS)	Map Name
1	67.1725000	-148.3000000	671021N	1481800W	Chandalar A-3

### Linear Feature (Stream, Valley, Arroyo) Source

Sequence	Latitude(DEC)	Longitude(DEC)	Latitude(DMS)	Longitude(DMS)	Map Name
7	68.3463889	-148.2791667	682047N	1481645W	Philip Smith Mountains B-3

### Coordinates (One point per USGS topographic map containing the feature, NAD83)

### Mapping Services

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Sequence	Latitude(DEC)	Longitude(DEC)	Latitude(DMS)	Longitude(DMS)	Map Name
1	67.1725000	-148.3000000	671021N	1481800W	Chandalar A-3
2	67.2513889	-148.3452778	671505N	1482043W	Chandalar B-3
3	67.5011111	-147.8216667	673004N	1474918W	Chandalar C-2
4	67.7513889	-147.6969444	674505N	1474149W	Chandalar D-2
5	68.0002778	-147.6636111	680001N	1473949W	Philip Smith Mountains A-2
6	68.2502778	-147.8905556	681501N	1475326W	Philip Smith Mountains B-2
7	68.3463889	-148.2791667	682047N	1481645W	Philip Smith Mountains B-3

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