

Propose New or Change Name

Proposed Name: Nuchu Range

FIELD HELP: Enter proposed feature name. (Up to 100 characters.)

Action requested: 2

FIELD HELP: Select action being requested. Values are: 1-Name an unnamed feature, 2-Change an existing name, 3-Move existing name from one feature to another feature

Existing name: Gore Range

FIELD HELP: If Action Requested is 'Change an existing name', enter current feature name. (Up to 100 characters.) Describe sources used for current name in Details below.

Evidence feature is unnamed: n/a

FIELD HELP: If Action Requested above is 'Name an unnamed feature', enter evidence that feature is unnamed (GNIS queried, maps checked, local authorities contacted, etc.) (Up to 4000 characters. If more space is needed, please upload a document as supporting material.)

Is proposed name in local use? No

FIELD HELP: Select 'Yes' or 'No'. Is the proposed name in local usage at this time? Enter sources of evidence for local use in Details below.

Number of years in local use: 0

FIELD HELP: If 'Yes' is selected for 'Local use', enter the number of years the proposed name is in local use, in numerical format, i.e. 2, 5, 35.

Any local conflict? No

FIELD HELP: Select 'Yes' or 'No'. Is there local opposition to, or conflict with, the proposed name?

Explain conflict: n/a

FIELD HELP: If 'Yes' is selected for 'Local conflict', enter explanation of local opposition or conflict. (Up to 4000 characters. If more space is needed, please upload a document as supporting material.)

Details: Below we offer the Resolution passed unanimously by the Summit County Board of Commissioners on 8 September, 2020, followed by a narrative that provides more detailed background information.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-52

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
COUNTY OF SUMMIT
STATE OF COLORADO**

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RENAMING THE GORE RANGE TO THE NUCHU RANGE

WHEREAS, the names of geographic features in the United States are a valuable reflection of the history of our country and its changing face; and

WHEREAS, in 1890 the United States Board of Geographic Names (“BGN”) was established by executive order was given the authority to resolve all unsettled questions concerning geographic names; and

WHEREAS, prior to the BGN, naming of geographic feature was done in an informal and sometimes haphazard manner in which early names were derived from labels placed on early hand drawn maps of geographic features in Colorado; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to current BGN policy, if a person did not live in an area for a considerable period of time and is not recognized for having contributed positively and significantly to that community, the person’s name cannot permanently grace a federally recognized feature; and

WHEREAS, inappropriate geographic names have been slowly changing over time, in order to reflect our values that are reflected in these carefully crafted BGN criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Gore Range was named after a 19th century Irish aristocrat named Lord St. George Gore who led an infamous hunting expedition across the American West during which Lord Gore himself claimed to have killed more than 2,000 bison, 1,600 elk and deer, and 105 bears for mere sport over roughly three years, leaving the carcasses to rot; and

WHEREAS, Gore’s slaughter of wildlife was so extreme that it prompted protests from government officials and citizens alike, including the mountain men, indigenous people, and members of the US Calvary who helped guide the expedition; and

WHEREAS, Gore may have crossed Gore Pass west of Kremmling, there is little evidence that he ever set foot near the peaks of the mountain range; and

WHEREAS, for 10,000 years the Ute tribe resided in the geographic area encompassing what is currently known as the Gore Mountain Range before the United States government forcibly removed them to reservations in Utah in 1880, denying the Ute the 12 million acres of land that had previously been formally guaranteed to them in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, the Ute people relied upon Rocky Mountain wildlife for their sustenance,

and Lord Gore's massacre of thousands of buffalo, elk, deer, bears and other wildlife left to waste is the antithesis of our stewardship values; and

WHEREAS, the Ute Tribal leadership including the Northern Ute, Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes have agreed on an appropriate and meaningful name of Nuchu Range as the best replacement name for this geographic feature; and

WHEREAS, Nuchu Range means the Ute's Range in the Ute language, and the name used historically; and

WHEREAS, Nuchu Range is not an official name in use anywhere in the Rocky Mountains today.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO, THAT the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board is urged to support changing the name of the Gore Range to the Nuchu Range, in order to (1) appropriately reflect our Country's history and values of environmental stewardship, and (2) comply with current naming policies of the United States Board of Geographic Names.

ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020.

**COUNTY OF SUMMIT
STATE OF COLORADO
AND THROUGH ITS
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Karl Egelmeier, Chair

ATTEST:

Kathleen Neel, Clerk & Recorder



Background

Summary

Irishman George Gore traveled through what are now Nebraska, the Dakotas, and Wyoming on a 2.5 year hunting expedition in the mid-1850s. He was one of the worst sportsmen in US history, wantonly killing thousands of buffalo, elk, bear, and many other animals, depriving the natives of vital food. At the end of his trip, out of spite he burned his equipment (30 wagons of gear) in front of his support team. The Gore Range was named for him with no public discourse, after a passing reference in a newspaper article (1868) about a climb of Long's Peak, from which "Gore's Range" could be seen in the far distance.

The Ute Indians had been successful stewards of these mountains and surrounding lands for millennia. By 1881, they had been forcefully removed to three reservations in Utah and far SW Colorado. Gore himself never set foot in or near the core of the range.

We therefore urge the USGS Board on Geographic Names to support our request that the name of these mountains be changed. The three Ute tribes have selected THE NUCHU RANGE as their preference (Nuchu means "Ute" in their language) and we fully support this decision.

Gore's expedition

Gore visited the US from 1854 to 1857. He traveled widely in the plains of what would become Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana, with a brief side-trip into the future states of Utah and Colorado (although never south of the Colorado River). His provisions were legendary; his fur-lined commode and brass bedstead illustrate the extravagance that filled 30 wagons with his supplies, attended by 50 servants. His sole aim was hunting game, supported by scouts, beaters, hounds, and a vast arsenal of firearms and ammunition.

Gore earned the deep animosity of both Native Americans and the US government, simultaneously. His cruel slaughter of countless game animals deprived the native population of a vital food supply, and his American host, the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, wrote, "George Gore... received from me a passport to travel through the Indian country in the spring of 1854; and... he greatly abused the privileges granted to him by a wanton destruction of the game upon which Indians rely solely for Support." Even the plaque "honoring" Gore at the summit of Gore Pass notes, "More than 2,000 buffalo, 1,600 elk and deer, 100 bears were massacred for sport...."

Late in his trip, Gore and his crew knowingly violated his passport when they penetrated into the Black Hills, sacred lands granted by treaty to the Sioux Indians. Previous interlopers had been summarily killed. The Sioux discovered Gore's party, surrounded, overwhelmed, and disarmed them, and then let them go, unharmed. It was an astonishing gesture, after his depredations.

While he paid his attendants a fair wage, Gore revealed his true feelings about them at the end of his trip, in the remote reaches of the Yellowstone River. As he prepared to disband the crew, Gore felt that the men were not offering enough money for his remaining wagons and gear, so out of spite he burned the lot (except for his guns and trophies) in front of them, and departed for St. Louis.

As mentioned, Gore never ventured south of the Colorado River, and thus never set foot in the core of the magnificent mountain range later named after him.

Renaming Precedents

Efforts to rename places and monuments in the US have increased in recent years. While some ideologues make categorical declarations, from "rename nothing!" to "rename anything!" most people (including the USGS Board of Geographic Names) take a more sanguine view, and require that the pros and cons be weighed for each individual proposal. For some, like treasonous Confederate Generals, the decision is relatively easy. More generally, however, it is not enough for a man's (and they all seem to be men) character flaws to cancel entirely a career otherwise rich with accomplishment and service.

Two recent examples of renaming campaigns illustrate how challenging the process can be, namely Princeton University's renaming of its Woodrow Wilson Center and Yale University's renaming of the J.C. Calhoun Residential College. Mustering the full resources of great universities, both investigations considered viable pro and con arguments; Wilson and Calhoun were distinguished American citizens, revered by many. After long deliberations, both institutions initially (2016) concluded not to change the names. Upon further reflection, both reversed their initial decisions (Yale in 2017, Princeton in 2020).

Colorado likewise has no shortage of places and monuments named for distinguished citizens of flawed character - men like Evans, Byers, and Pitkin, and it is likely that the Board of Geographic Names will weigh similar campaigns in the future. The situation with the Gore Range, however, is altogether different, as explained below.

Rename the Gore Range

It is virtually impossible to find any significantly redeeming qualities to offset even slightly the myriad offenses that Gore committed during his time in the U.S. There is simply no effective counterpoise to the argument to rename the range: his deplorable treatment of Native Americans, his having never set foot in the core of the magnificent range later named after him, the entirely casual, unreviewed, and unregulated process by which the range was named (a mountaineer's trip report of a climb more than 50 miles distant), the blanket condemnation of his behavior by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and the wanton slaughter of wildlife for

the sheer pleasure of killing - none of these can be offset even a little. Surely, if ever a place warranted a new name, the Gore Range is a poster child example.

On the flip side, in the virtual absence of anything positive to say about the man, one can ask: Just how bad was he? Were his actions sufficiently heinous to warrant renaming the Gore Range? He wasn't the only person slaughtering buffalo (ultimately to within a whisker of extinction), but at least the other hunters took hides (no mountains were named for them). Gore, on the other hand, left most of his game to rot on the prairie. One might wonder if people even cared back then. While the environmental ethic was still a few decades removed from explicit expression, it certainly existed in the way people lived in the more populous regions to the east; they surely would have condemned Gore for his wasteful slaughter... had they known. The destruction of the buffalo, however, took place on the nearly uninhabited plains, where few (beyond plains Indians, deprived of their lifeblood) were aware of it, owing to the lack of effective communication. Thus, it seems safe to conclude that what Gore did was very bad by the standards of any age.

There is another part of this story — deeply emotional, but resting on the arguments above — namely that it seems a small gesture to restore dignity to the land, and especially to the Ute Indians, whose successful stewardship of this, their homeland, reached back thousands of years. Taken altogether, the case for renaming the Gore Range to the Nuchu Range to honor the Utes is irrefutable, irresistible.

FIELD HELP: Provide additional information relative to the above questions or other information to backup proposal; i.e. who else supports it, which maps you have checked, etc. (Up to 4000 characters. If more space is needed, please upload a document as supporting material.)

Is this geographic feature listed in the GNIS (<http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic>)? Yes

FIELD HELP: Click on the link following this sentence and search the Geographic Names Information System.

If feature is named, what is the GNIS Feature ID? Gore Range

FIELD HELP: Enter the feature ID as shown in GNIS. A link to the on-line GNIS query page is provided.

Feature class (<http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic/f?p=gnispq:8>)? Range

FIELD HELP: Select Feature Class from the drop down list of values provided.

Descriptive information: Mountain range

FIELD HELP: Describe the feature. This might include: physical shape, flow direction (if linear, such as stream, river, creek, valley, etc.), length, width, elevation of summit. (Up to 4000 characters. If more space is needed, please upload a document as supporting material.)

Meaning or significance:

The mountains of Colorado and Utah were the homeland of the Ute Indians for many centuries, and probably millennia. They referred to themselves as "Nuchu." Of the eleven Ute tribes, the White River Utes (Parianuche and Yamparika) occupied North Park, Middle Park, and the White and Yampa river valleys, with territories extending westward to eastern Utah. By 1881, they all had been removed from their ancestral lands to reservations in Utah and SW Colorado

Resource stewardship was intrinsic to the people who lived here for those thousands of years before the European explorers first stepped into this region. The high mountains were seasonally inhabited by the native people, and lower elevations provided year round homes of the Ute people.

The Ute people were generally friendly and helpful to the early explorers, but after the 1879 Meeker massacre, they were marched out to the edges of and beyond the boundaries of Colorado. By 1881, they were entirely banished from their ancestral home, which had once encompassed 12 million acres, lands which had formally been guaranteed to them in perpetuity. Today, the Ute Mountain Utes and the Southern Utes occupy reservations in far southwest Colorado, and the Northern Utes live on a reservation in Utah. The Ute People today have tribal leadership in the form of councils and chairmanships, and cultural directors. The tribes are part of the Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs (CCIA) along with all Colorado State departments, including the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Public Health and Environment, and Department of Education.

The name "Gore Range" was first used casually in a newspaper article on September 1, 1868 in the Rocky Mountain News. Its founder and editor William Byers had just returned from the first recorded ascent of Long's Peak with John Wesley Powell and others, and mentioned in his trip report that from the summit they could see a number of far-off mountain ranges, including "Gore's Range." That name later (1870s) appeared on maps from the Hayden expeditions. The USGS was founded in 1879, and naming criteria were established by the USGS Board of Geographic Names in 1890.

FIELD HELP: Provide historical significance of the proposed name, such as its meaning or origin. (Up to 4000 characters. If more space is needed, please upload a document as supporting material.)

Is the proposed name intended to commemorate an individual? No

FIELD HELP: Select Yes or No. If Yes, provide additional details in Biographical Information field.

Biographical information: n/a

FIELD HELP: Provide biographical information of the intended honoree(s), including his/her full name, birth & death dates, association with geographic feature, etc. (Up to 4000 characters. If more space is needed, please upload a document as supporting material.)

States and Counties

State name: Colorado

FIELD HELP: Select the State in which the feature is located from the drop down list of values.

County name: Summit County, Eagle County

FIELD HELP: Select the County in which the feature is located from the drop down list of values.

Geographic Coordinates

Obtained from (Drop down list of values to choose from: Computer Image, Geographic Information System, GPS Receiver, Map, Photograph, Other): GIS

FIELD HELP: Select how geographic coordinates were obtained.

Describe Other: n/a

FIELD HELP: If 'Other' is selected for 'Obtained from', explain what 'Other' is.

Latitude degrees: 39

FIELD HELP: Enter latitude degrees. Degrees must be less than or equal to 90. Default is North.

Latitude minutes: 40

FIELD HELP: Enter latitude minutes. Minutes must be less than or equal to 59.

Latitude seconds: 1.1346

FIELD HELP: Enter latitude seconds. Seconds must be less than or equal to 59.

Longitude degrees: -106

FIELD HELP: Enter longitude degrees. Degrees must be less than or equal to 180. Select East or West.

Longitude minutes: 14

FIELD HELP: Enter longitude minutes. Minutes must be less than or equal to 59.

Longitude seconds: 11.8026

FIELD HELP: Enter longitude seconds. Seconds must be less than or equal to 59.

Decimal latitude: 39.6669823

FIELD HELP: Enter latitude in decimal notation (DD.nnnnnnn). Degrees must be in the range -90.0000000 to 90.0000000.

Decimal longitude: -106.236612

FIELD HELP: Enter longitude in decimal notation (DDD.nnnnnnn). Degrees must be in the range -180.0000000 to 180.0000000.

Additional details

The Gore Range extends about 70 miles, from I-70 in the south nearly to Steamboat Springs in the north. The character of the range changes greatly over this distance. The rugged, formerly glaciated peaks in the south, many rising above 13,000 feet, extend about 30 miles from I-70 to Elliot's Ridge; this region contains the Eagles Nest Wilderness. Farther north the terrain drops below tree line, descending over about 17 miles to the Colorado River (7000'), and then continues north about 25 additional miles.

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

Sequence	Latitude(DEC)	Longitude(DEC)	Latitude(DMS)	Longitude(DMS)	Map Name
1	39.8333193	-106.4172528	395000N	1062502W	Piney Peak
2	39.7249857	-106.3089167	394330N	1061832W	Vail East
3	39.6499861	-106.1839126	393900N	1061102W	Willow Lakes
4	39.5999862	-106.2089134	393600N	1061232W	Vail Pass
5	40.0166528	-106.4839224	400100N	1062902W	Kremmling
6	40.2694276	-106.6144846	401610N	1063652W	Lake Agnes
7	40.1499849	-106.6005939	400900N	1063602W	Tyler Mountain
8	40.3166486	-106.6880984	401900N	1064117W	Walton Peak
9	40.3833144	-106.6394858	402300N	1063822W	Mount Werner

FIELD HELP: Provide additional information to locate or describe the feature. If feature type is a stream, valley, or arroyo, please add source coordinates here, if known.(Up to 4000 characters. If more space is needed, please upload a document as supporting material.)

Administrative Areas

Administrative area type: US Forest Service

FIELD HELP: Select type of administrative area in which the feature is located from drop down list of values.

Administrative area name: White River National Forest

FIELD HELP: Enter name of administrative area. (Up to 100 characters.)

Details:

FIELD HELP: Provide additional information. (Up to 4000 characters. If more space is needed, please upload a document as supporting material.)

Maps and Documents with Name

Source type: document

FIELD HELP: Select the type of source displaying the proposed name from a drop down list of values (digital file, document, map, photograph, web site, other).

Details: Nuchu is the Ute Indian word for "Ute." Nuchu does not appear in the GNIS database.

FIELD HELP: Provide name or title of source on which the proposed name is applied to a feature other than what is currently in GNIS. (Up to 4000 characters. If more space is needed, please upload a document as supporting material.)

Source date (yyyy): 2020

FIELD HELP: Enter date of source that shows the name that is being proposed.

Other Names and Their Source

Source type: website (USGS)

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=138:3:::NO:3:P3_FID,P3_TITLE:175656,Gore%20Range

FIELD HELP: Select the type of source displaying variant (other) name from drop down list of values. (digital file, document, map, photograph, web site, other)

Other (variant) name:

Blue Range

U.S. Geological Survey. Geographic Names Phase I data compilation (1976-1981). 31-Dec-1981. Primarily from U.S. Geological Survey 1:24,000-scale topographic maps (or 1:25K, Puerto Rico 1:20K) and from U.S. Board on Geographic Names files. In some instances, from 1:62,500 scale or 1:250,000 scale maps.

Eagles Nest Range

U.S. Geological Survey. Geographic Names Phase I data compilation (1976-1981). 31-Dec-1981. Primarily from U.S. Geological Survey 1:24,000-scale topographic maps (or 1:25K, Puerto Rico 1:20K) and from U.S. Board on Geographic Names files. In some instances, from 1:62,500 scale or 1:250,000 scale maps.

FIELD HELP: Enter known variant (other) name(s) for the feature. (Up to 100 characters.) A variant name is any name or spelling other than the one being proposed.

Details (Maps and other sources using this other name): source is USGS website

https://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=138:3:::NO:3:P3_FID,P3_TITLE:175656,Gore%20Range

FIELD HELP: Provide the source (title, description) of this information, i.e. where the variant name is found: map, text, sign, website. etc. (Up to 4000 characters. If more space is needed, please upload a document as supporting material.)

Source date (yyyy): 1978

FIELD HELP: Enter date of source that shows the other (variant) name.

Authorities

Last name: Stiegelmeier

FIELD HELP: Enter last name of individual with authority for (or knowledge of) the proposed name. (Up to 45 characters.)

First name: Karn

FIELD HELP: Enter first name of individual with authority for (or knowledge of) the proposed name. (Up to 30 characters.)

Email address: karnstieg@comcast.net

FIELD HELP: Enter e-mail address to contact this authority. (Up to 75 characters.)

Physical address: 334 Hillside Dr

FIELD HELP: Enter mailing address of this authority. (Up to 75 characters.)

City: Silverthorne

FIELD HELP: Enter city. (Up to 45 characters.)

State: Colorado

FIELD HELP: Select the State from a drop down list of values.

Zip: 80498

FIELD HELP: Enter ZIP Code. (Up to 5 characters.)

Phone: 970 471 2298

FIELD HELP: Enter phone number to contact this authority. (10 digits, include area code, no dashes or parenthesis.)

Occupation: Chair, Summit County CO Board of Commissioners

FIELD HELP: Enter occupation/title of this authority. (Up to 100 characters.)

Number of years in occupation: 4

FIELD HELP: Enter how many years this authority has had knowledge of the proposed name?

Submitters and/or Preparers

Role in name proposal: proponent and preparer

FIELD HELP: Select the role of the individual providing name proposal information. Is this individual the proponent, the preparer of the form, or both?

Last name: Stiegelmeier

FIELD HELP: Enter your legal surname. (Up to 45 characters)

First name: Karn

FIELD HELP: Enter your first name. (Up to 30 characters.)

Phone: 970 471 2298

FIELD HELP: Enter primary phone number where you can be contacted in case of questions regarding the proposal. (10 digits, include area code, no dashes or parenthesis.)

Company (only if proposing on behalf of): Summit County Board of Commissioners

FIELD HELP: Enter your company or agency, if the proposal is submitted on behalf of your employer. (Up to 100 characters.)

Title: Chair, Summit County Commissioners

FIELD HELP: Enter your title within the company or agency. (Up to 45 characters.)

Email address: karnstie@comcast.net

FIELD HELP: Enter email address where you can be contacted. (Up to 75 characters.)

Physical address: 334 Hillside Dr.

FIELD HELP: Enter mailing address where you can receive written correspondence. (Up to 75 characters.)

City: Silverthorne

FIELD HELP: Enter city. (Up to 45 characters.)

State: Colorado

FIELD HELP: Select the State from a drop down list of values.

Zip: 80498

FIELD HELP: Enter ZIP Code. (Up to 5 characters.)

Summary and Submittal

This page provides a look at all of your input for printing and then to click on the SUBMIT button. If this SUBMIT button is not clicked, the name proposal will not be sent to the Board on Geographic Names for consideration.