

**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 19<sup>th</sup> 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



Karne Stiegelmeier, Chair

ATTEST:

Kathleen Neel, Clerk & Recorder