

Resolution No. 2017-63

**Board of County Commissioners
County of Summit
State of Colorado**

Support for Gore Range Name Change Resolution

WHEREAS, early names on hand drawn maps of geographic features in Colorado were commonly early explorers names, and many of those names are still in place today, and

WHEREAS, the USGS was established in 1879, and naming criteria was established by the USGS, Board of Geographic Names in 1890, and

WHEREAS, inappropriate names have been slowly changing over time, in order to reflect our values in these carefully crafted criteria, and

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, the first documentation of the attribution of the name Gore for this beautiful mountain range in Summit and Eagle Counties, is noted in a conversation atop Long's Peak when William Byers pointed to the Range and described to John Wesley Powell, that is Gore's Range, and

WHEREAS, the native Ute people relied upon Rocky Mountain wildlife for their sustenance, and Lord Gore's massacre of thousands of buffalo, elk, deer and bears and other wildlife left to waste is the antithesis of our stewardship values, and

WHEREAS, the 1850's were a different time, but even then, the mountain men , native Americans, and the US Cavalry who helped guide him were finally disgusted by his killing spree wastefulness, leaving all these animals to waste, while local indigenous people depended on these animals for survival, and

WHEREAS, Lord Gore never stepped foot into the Gore Range, and the USGS criteria for naming includes a requirement that naming a feature after a person requires that person has resided in the community and has contributed significantly to the betterment of that community, and

WHEREAS, the Ute people lived in this geographic area for approximately 10,000 years before being removed from the "Shining Mountains" to reservations in Utah in 1880, following the Meeker massacre, and the passing of the Ute Removal Act, denying the Ute the 12 million acres of land that had formally been guaranteed to them in perpetuity.

WHEREAS, Shining Mountains Range is a native Ute name for the Rocky Mountains in a generic sense, and

WHEREAS, Shining Mountains Range is not an official USGS name in use anywhere in the Rocky Mountains today, and

WHEREAS, Shining Mountains Range is our best suggestion for replacement name so far, but we are open to other suggestions from the Ute tribes leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO, THAT we urge the USGS to support the change of the name of the Gore Range to reflect the values of environmental stewardship and the criteria of the USGS for naming, including having resided in the area and having contributed significantly to the betterment of the communities.