

# RENAMING OF THE GRAND RIVER, COLO.

---

## HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE  
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-SIXTH CONGRESS

THIRD SESSION

ON

**H. J. RES. 460**

---

FEBRUARY 18, 1921



WASHINGTON  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1921



## COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

#### SIXTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

JOHN J. ESCH, Wisconsin, *Chairman.*

EDWARD L. HAMILTON, Michigan.	THETUS W. SIMS, Tennessee.
SAMUEL E. WINSLOW, Massachusetts.	FRANK E. DOREMUS, Michigan.
JAMES S. PARKER, New York.	ALBEN W. BARKLEY, Kentucky.
BURTON E. SWEET, Iowa.	SAM RAYBURN, Texas.
WALTER R. STINESS, Rhode Island.	ANDREW J. MONTAGUE, Virginia.
JOHN G. COOPER, Ohio.	CHARLES P. COADY, Maryland.
FRANKLIN F. ELLSWORTH, Minnesota.	ARTHUR G. DEWALT, Pennsylvania.
EDWARD E. DENISON, Illinois.	JARED Y. SANDERS, Louisiana.
EVERETT SANDERS, Indiana.	
SCHUYLER MERRITT, Connecticut.	
J. STANLEY WEBSTER, Washington.	
EVAN J. JONES, Pennsylvania.	

GEORGE ESCH, *Clerk.*

A. H. CLARK, *Assistant Clerk.*

## CONTENTS.

	Page.
Statement of Hon. Edward T. Taylor.....	5
Copy of House joint resolution 460.....	14
Report of the Interior Department.....	15
Report of the War Department.....	16
Report of the Geological Survey.....	16
The naming of the Colorado River.....	16
The naming of the Grand River.....	19
The naming of the Green River.....	19
The naming of the State of Colorado.....	21
Letter submitted by Dr. C. Hart Merriam.....	21
Communications regarding the United States Geographic Board.....	21
Copy of joint resolution, Thirty-second Congress.....	23
The Colorado River declared navigable by treaty.....	23
Copy of Senate bill 79 before the Colorado Legislature.....	24
Resolution adopted by the Colorado Historical Society.....	25
Data pertaining to the Colorado River.....	25
Resolution adopted by the Colorado Engineering Council.....	26
Letter submitted by the Colorado Mountain Club.....	26
The high mountain peaks of Colorado.....	27
Communications favoring the renaming of the Grand River.....	28



## RENAMING OF THE GRAND RIVER, COLO.

COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Friday, February 18, 1921.*

The committee met at 10 o'clock a. m., Hon. John J. Esch (chairman) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. I have arranged for a brief hearing for Mr. Taylor on his joint resolution (H. J. Res. 460) changing the name of the Grand River to Colorado. We will now hear you Mr. Taylor.

### STATEMENT OF HON. EDWARD T. TAYLOR, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF COLORADO.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I appreciate very highly, indeed, this very exceptional consideration you are according me this near the close of the session, and I thank the committee on behalf of my State and myself, and assure you I will try to be as brief as possible.

I have prepared a large map here that will give quite a comprehensive birdseye view of the southwestern portion of the United States, and especially the drainage basin of the Colorado River and all its tributaries, and I trust it may be helpful both to the committee and me in my effort to explain the reasons for the enactment of this measure.

#### DESCRIPTION OF RIVERS.

The main stream of the Colorado River, as shown on this map, from its mouth in the Gulf of California, in Old Mexico, up to the junction of the Grand and the Green Rivers, in the southeastern portion of the State of Utah, is in length a little over 1,000 miles. The junction of those two streams is only about 50 miles on an air line west of the boundary of Colorado; but along the course of the Grand River in Utah, the distance is about 80 miles, and from the State line up the Grand River to its source in Grand County, in the northern central portion of the State of Colorado, the distance is about 350 miles.

The Green River, as you will see, rises in the Wind River Mountains in the western-central portion of Wyoming and comes down through the southern part of that State, runs about 35 miles through northwestern Colorado and receives a very large per cent of its flow from the Yampa River in Colorado and also from the White River just outside of Colorado, and runs thence southerly through a portion of eastern Utah to the junction with the Grand River. The Green River is much longer than the Grand—the same as the Missouri River is much longer than the Mississippi River is above



the mouth of the Missouri; but the Grand River is very much larger than the Green—carrying some 25 per cent more water—and is in reality the main stream of the Colorado River.

The flow of the Colorado River in recent years ranges from about 5,000 cubic feet per second in January to 150,000 cubic feet in June, and its average annual run-off is about 17,000,000 acre-feet.

Western Colorado is only a little more than one-tenth in area of the entire drainage basin of the Colorado River, which is 244,000 square miles. Yet 20 counties in my congressional district furnish nearly 60 per cent of all the gigantic and terrific floods that the Colorado River pours into the Gulf of California, while the Green River, aside from its Colorado tributaries, furnishes only about 15 per cent of that total flow; and yet, from a very self-evident lack of definite information, some writers have in the early days assumed that the Green River was the main stream, simply because it is longer than the Grand. And some later writers, without examining the facts, have repeated and echoed those early erroneous statements. Western Colorado was largely the Ute Indian Reservation and was an utter "terra incognita" until within very recent years, while nearly all western explorers and trappers were quite familiar with the Green River. It is a comparatively small stream in Wyoming, and everyone crossed and recrossed and floated on it with rude rafts with perfect safety, and they often referred to it as the extension of the Colorado River. But I infer from nearly all the records I have been able to examine that most of such references to the Green River were made by men who knew little or nothing whatever personally about the size or character of the Grand River. If any of them had ever attempted in the spring or summer to cross the Grand River at any place within 200 miles of its junction with the Green, they never would have reported their expedition. It is one of the most swift, deep, dangerous, and treacherous rivers anywhere in this country. The chairman of our board of county commissioners, and also the road overseer of my own home county, and quite a number of other people were at different times and places drowned in that river within the past year. And none of them were trying to cross it. They accidentally fell into the edge of it and were swept down. No one who ever lived to cross the Grand River at the same time of the year that he had crossed the Green, would ever report that the Green was the main stream. The actual facts are absolutely against any such contention. Aside from the Gila River, it is the western slope of Colorado that furnishes the main part of the water of the Colorado River, and comparatively little of it comes from either Wyoming or Utah.

The actual official measurements and ratings which I will submit definitely and conclusively determine the comparative size and importance of these two streams.

#### NAMING OF RIVERS.

But, aside from the local and physical aspect of these three rivers, I desire to refer to them briefly, historically.

The histories of the West tell us that the first white man who ever saw the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River was Don Lopez De

Cardenas, a Spanish explorer, in January, 1540. But history generally accords the credit of the discovery of the great Rio Colorado of the West to Hernando De Alarcon, another Spanish explorer, on August 26, 1540. The river was given or known by various names from that time until about 300 years ago, when it was named the Rio Colorado of the West, and has been known as the Colorado River ever since before the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth Rock in 1620. It is also assumed in our histories that the river was naturally given the name of "Colorado" from its mouth in the Gulf of California to its source, wherever that might be. The early explorers never knew where the river arose. In fact, very little was known about the Colorado River, above the extreme lower part of it, for nearly 300 years after its discovery. It was about the year 1776—the year of the Declaration of Independence—that the two main forks were discovered by other explorers and known to be the sources of the Colorado and were then given various other names from that time on until about a hundred years ago, when they first became locally and rather intermittently called the Grand and Green Rivers, and have been generally so known for the past 75 to 100 years.

#### TREATY WITH MEXICO.

At the time of the negotiations of the treaty between the United States and Mexico, after the Mexican War, by which all of that southwestern country was ceded to the United States under the terms of the "Treaty Guadalupe-Hidalgo," including practically all of the drainage basin of the Colorado River which, as will be shown on the map, included the western portions of New Mexico and Colorado and parts of Wyoming and all of Utah, Nevada, California, and Arizona, section 6 of that treaty provided that the Colorado River should be free to navigation from the Gulf of California up through old Mexico and into the United States; and the courts have ever since held, in accordance with that treaty, that the lower portion of the Colorado River is navigable. As a matter of fact, it is not only navigable by international treaty, but it is navigable in fact, and has at various times been used quite extensively for navigation purposes from the gulf up the river approximately 400 miles. So that the Colorado River is an international stream, and also a navigable stream, and has been so recognized ever since the proclamation of that treaty on the 4th of July, 1848.

#### NAMING OF COLORADO.

When the bill providing for the original creation of the Territory of Colorado was before the Thirty-sixth Congress, it passed the House providing for the naming of our present State "The Territory of Idaho." But in the debate over in the Senate, the Senate amended the bill and struck out the name "Idaho" and christened our present State "The Territory of Colorado," as they then expressly stated, "for the reason that the Colorado River arose in its mountains, and there was a peculiar fitness in the name," and also because "the name 'Colorado' is more appropriate and more harmonious \* \* \* and is the handsomest name that could be given to any Territory or State."



Those statements were made on the floor of the United States Senate on February 4, 1861, and every loyal son and daughter of Colorado, wherever they may be, have heartily and enthusiastically approved of and applauded that sentiment from that day to this; and there has always been a real, genuine, patriotic and sincere regret among a large per cent of the people of my State that that great river—the largest, grandest, and most interesting river in Colorado—did not bear the name of Colorado, as it should, clear up to its source in Grand County, in the northern central portion of our State.

It has always seemed a strange and anomalous situation that our great State should be named for one of the greatest rivers in the world that arises and flows hundreds of miles within our borders, and that the river should bear the name of our State from its mouth clear up nearly to the border of the State and then be called by some other name within our State; especially a name that does not have any particular meaning to our State. It is a meaningless misnomer. It has always seemed an absurd situation. It is absurd for one part of any stream to be given one name and the rest of the stream another name. We have in Colorado no State pride in the name "Grand." That name is merely an adjective, and does not mean anything but large or great, and might be applied to any large or beautiful stream. Practically everything in Colorado is grand, and as applied to a river it is a very commonplace name. It has no historical or special signification, while on the other hand the magic word "Colorado" does have a very great and affectionate significance to every civilized human being on this planet. It is not only one of the most beautiful and charming words of the English language, and the handsomest name that could be given to any Territory or State, and for the past 100 years that wonderful name has attracted thousands of nature lovers of all nations to one of the greatest and most unique and scenic rivers in the world, with a marvelously interesting and weird history, but even much more than all that, for the past 60 years, "Colorado" has meant the heart of the Golden West, the actual top of the world, the land of sunshine, good health, and gorgeous scenery, the summer playground of the Nation, the Switzerland of America, the bright jewel set in the crest of this continent, where it shines as the Kohinoor of all the gems of this Union; the sublime Centennial State.

Colorado is the fascinating mecca toward which many millions of afflicted humanity are to-day hopefully, longingly, and prayerfully looking. And I can not appreciate how any thoughtful American citizen—especially any loyal Coloradan, with red blood in his veins, could try to deprive our magnificent State of our unquestionable right to the historic name of that great international river that arises in the Rocky Mountain National Park, on the highest ridge of the Continental Divide of this Nation, in the glaciers and eternal snowbanks on top of some of the highest peaks in this country, at an elevation of over 14,000 feet, and madly rolls, whirls, and pitches 10,000 feet down hundreds of canyons, cataracts, and gorges, and flows then majestically through the valleys of western Colorado for nearly 400 miles within our borders; and every ripple is a murmur of rebuke to this long denial of its birthright to the name "Colorado."

As a loyal son of Colorado for 40 years, I never have, and never will, reconcile myself to this most unjust, unnecessary, and unfortu-

nate misnomer and absurd incongruity. It is outrageously wrong to our State. For nearly 35 years my home has been, and is now, in the beautiful little city of Glenwood Springs, on the banks of this river; and while I do not at all pretend to be any more loyal to Colorado, or that that name is any more dear to me than to many others; yet, during all of those years I have always hoped and believed that the State pride of the sons and daughters of our beloved Commonwealth would some day, some way, compel this change to be made; and whether or not my resolution shall pass in this Congress or the next, I have an abiding faith, in fact, I know, that some day this change will be made, and I earnestly hope that your committee will favorably recommend this resolution and allow the change to be made and permit our citizens to fondly and proudly welcome our greatest river as our great State stream under the name that is dearest to every Coloradan's heart.

#### STATE LEGISLATION.

I trust you will pardon me a personal reference and permit me to digress a moment to say that, acting upon this sentiment, about 15 years ago I introduced a bill similar to this in the Colorado State senate, when I was a member of that body, providing for the change of that name. But owing to matters that were largely aside from the merits of the measure I was unable at that time to pass it through the legislature, and I temporarily discontinued my efforts in that direction; although many thousands of good, patriotic citizens have ever since been disappointed because of the failure of my bill. However, I am delighted to say that the Rotary Club of the city of Grand Junction, Colo., the largest city in my district, and situated on this river, has just recently taken this matter up, and are now vigorously urging this change; and State Senator Ollie E. Bannister, of that city, has found in the old files at the capital and reintroduced my former bill in the present twenty-third general assembly of our State, and within the past few days the State senate has unanimously passed the bill. Of course, that bill only applies to the river within the borders of Colorado, but otherwise it is similar in terms to my present H. J. Resolution 460. I am confidently assured that the House will act favorably upon that bill and that it has the approval of our governor, and I am in hopes that the official name of that river will soon be the "Colorado" within Colorado by the law of our State.

I am pleased to say also that the State Historical Society of Colorado has enthusiastically approved this measure; and the association known as the Sons of Colorado, which includes a very large number of splendid people in our State. Also many other patriotic organizations of our State, and all the cities and towns from the western State line up to my home city, and many business men's organizations, especially throughout the Grand River valley and the tributaries thereof; and I will insert them in the record, with the permission of the committee.

Mr. MERRITT. Does anybody object to this change?

Mr. TAYLOR. No one from the State of Colorado has thus far made any objection to this measure to me, and I do not anticipate there will be any serious or substantial objection from Colorado. Of



course, I realize there are many good people who object to any change of the names of well-known natural objects. Some people are constitutionally opposed to changing any old names, and there may be some objection on that ground. But I feel that there can be no objections made sufficient to warrant the denial of the inherent and absolute birthright of the State of Colorado to adopt that name for that main stream of the State. Seventy-five or even a hundred years is not a very long time in the life of a nation or a State, and I am thinking about the future Colorado and the supreme pride that all future generations of Colorado citizens will take in that great river as our largest and most wonderful stream under the dearly beloved name of our superb State.

Mr. MERRITT. Which is the largest stream at the junction?

Mr. TAYLOR. As I said a few minutes ago, the Grand is much the larger of the two.

Mr. JONES. Do you think changing the name of the river will have any effect out there; will they not continue to call it the Grand River?

Mr. TAYLOR. No, sir; I do not think so. I think there is a very general sentiment throughout the State that the stream ought to be called the Colorado River, and I believe they will very soon become accustomed to that name, especially because of its being the name of our State.

Mr. DEWALT. Is there any precedent for action of this kind?

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, sir; possibly your committee is not familiar with the fact that in 1852 Congress passed a resolution similar to this one of mine changing the name of a river in the then Territory of Minnesota. The river had for many years before been known as St. Peters River, and the pioneers of that region apparently concluded that St. Peter had little or nothing to do with that river, so they had introduced and passed a bill through Congress changing the name of it to the name of their Territory, calling it the Minnesota River, and they have ever since been glad of it and proud of the river as a great State stream. Just to determine in my own mind the very question that Mr. Dewalt asks, I have recently inquired of several Members of the Minnesota delegation in Congress, and only one of them knows of the name of that Minnesota river ever having been changed, showing conclusively that people very soon become accustomed to the changed name, especially of a great stream like this. That is the only precedent I have found and that and my bill are apparently the only ones on this subject that have ever been before Congress during the entire history of our Government. Possibly your attention may not have been called recently to the fact that 18 of the 48 States of this Union have been named after rivers; and a large number of rivers have been named after States also.

On September 4, 1890, President Harrison, by Executive order, created a Board on Geographic Names and appointed 10 members upon the board to settle all question of geographic names, etc.

On June 23 and August 10, 1906, President Roosevelt enlarged the powers and duties of that board and renamed it the United States Geographic Board.

On December 30, 1919, President Wilson revoked the Executive order of August 10, 1906, in so far as the additional advisory powers had been given to the board were concerned, and transferred those powers to the Board of Surveys and Maps.

By the fourth report of the United States Geographic Board, covering from 1890 to 1916, it appears that up to the latter date that board had made some 14,000 settlements of disputed cases of names, or modifications or entire changes of geographic names, and they have, of course, made a great many more changes since then.

While I do not pretend to know the limit or extent of their authority, I feel confident it would be entirely improper, even if the board should have the authority (which I do not believe it has), to change the name of a great interstate stream like the Grand River, especially when there is no dispute about its present local name. Therefore, with the approval of the people of my district and the State generally, I have introduced this bill, and I feel that this is a matter of sufficient national importance to warrant and amply justify Congress in taking cognizance of it and am on behalf of my State asking Congress to enact this measure.

Mr. SWEET. Has any action been taken by the Legislature of Utah?

Mr. TAYLOR. No, sir; not yet. I have never heard of the State of Utah paying any attention to this matter heretofore. But I may say that Congressman Welling, of Utah, represents the portion of Utah through which this river runs, and on the 4th of this month I wrote him a very lengthy and elaborate statement of this entire subject, giving him in detail the reasons Colorado wants this change made, and urged him to cooperate with us, and to transmit my letter to Gov. Charles R. Mabey, of Utah, which he advised me he has done. I have also asked Gov. Oliver H. Shoup, of Colorado, to communicate with Gov. Mabey, and I see by the Associated Press of to-day that the governor of Utah has wired the governor of Colorado, saying, "I am pleased to inform you that I shall not only approve but lend my influence to the proposal that the name be changed to the Colorado River. In conformity with your suggestion, I will refer the matter to the legislature." So that Colorado is delighted to have the approval and active cooperation of Gov. Mabey and we hope to have the active support of the Senators and Representatives of Utah in behalf of this measure. There is such a short portion of the Grand River in that State, only about 80 miles, that I feel confident the Legislature of Utah will not oppose what we think are the very natural, just, and commendable claims of Colorado to this distinction. I am hopeful that we may have a perfectly amicable cooperation between the two States on this measure.

Mr. JONES. What does your present legislature think about it? What is the sentiment out there?

Mr. TAYLOR. As I said a few minutes ago, the bill has already passed the State senate, and I am advised that the friends of the measure feel quite confident of passing it through the legislature and obtaining the approval of the governor of our State before the present session of our State legislature adjourns. I have been working nearly all my life for Colorado, and this is one of the many hopes that has been dear to my heart for all these years.

We feel in Colorado that our State has an absolute State right to this name. It is a matter of sentiment with our people. It is a pride of the Centennial State, and, with all due respect, we feel it would be unwarrantedly presumptuous for outsiders to attempt to interfere with our claim to this name. The Colorado people



very naturally feel that there can be no just reason why this request should not be granted by Congress.

Mr. BARKLEY. This situation is somewhat similar to what would be true if the Mississippi River above the mouth of the Missouri had been given some other name?

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, sir; exactly. The Mississippi River from the mouth of the Missouri River up is, as I recall it, not half as long as the Missouri River. But certainly nobody would ever presume that the Missouri River ought to have been called the Mississippi, because, forsooth, it is much the longer stream of the two.

Mr. SIMS. Colorado means red in Spanish?

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, sir; the river takes its name from the bright red-colored sandstone formation of the bluffs along the Colorado River throughout a large portion of its length, and also from the very reddish color of the water of the stream after heavy rains and cloudbursts among the red sandstone hills, which gives the waters of the stream a very reddish appearance, often for weeks at a time.

As you all know, the Colorado River is by far the most picturesque, scenic, unique, marvelous, and famous river in the world. It is the Nile of America. Travelers from every nation of the earth visit that stream, especially the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, every year; and there are, I presume, a hundred volumes written about it. But no tongue or pen can ever adequately describe the sublime and awe-inspiring grandeur of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado.

The Colorado River, from its source in the Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado to the Gulf of California, is the greatest natural museum and living laboratory in the world. It vividly presents the most varied, realistic, sublime, and awe-inspiring example of the workings of nature, which Secretary Lane says, "Tells the history of the making of the Continent, where the primal forces may yet be seen in action."

What State would not be proud to bear the name of Colorado and have its largest river bear the same name? No wonder the friends of the then proposed Territory of Arizona tried in Congress to take the name from us and give it to that Territory. No wonder the United States Senate 60 years ago approved the sentiment that it was the handsomest name that could be given to any Territory or State.

The Colorado River has no rival in the world. It is the giant of the Rockies. It bears a message from the prehistoric past. The entire river is a marvel of magic and mystery. All nations will some day make their pilgrimage to the sublimest marvel of nature's revelation on this planet, as shown in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. It is a weird, fascinating, moving, imperial tragedy of nature. It certainly is the waterway of the gods, and that canyon is the Titan of chasm. Incomparably the greatest abyss on earth. It is the sublimest vision ever offered to the human eye. The wonder that dwarfs all other wonders of the world. That canyon itself is the most instructive exposition of geology in the world. Verily here nature hath done her uttermost. It has been pronounced the greatest thing on earth, in height and depth, and in its wonderfulness of shapes and colors. The reason its water in the lower portion of the river is always muddy is because it has washed down that canyon 13 miles wide and 6,000 feet deep and 217 miles long. It is the

muddiest stream I ever saw, down near its mouth. The river carries a solid cubic mile of rock every century, besides a world of surface soil and vegetable matter.

Water is the master sculptor of the world, and sand is the effective working tool of nature in our mountain streams.

The waters of a hundred roaring mountain rivers unite to form the Colorado River. That river falls 14,000 feet from its source on the backbone of this continent and as it dashes down to the sea its waters are always laden with rock, sand, and other débris, which for millions of years has been constantly cutting deeper and deeper into the rocks through which it runs until their sides are now towering cliffs of solid rock.

Geologists tell us that it has required 40,000,000 years to form the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, and that during all of that time this earth has been inhabited by man. A description of the origin of the Grand Canyon and the geological workings of the Colorado River from the top of this hemisphere to the Gulf of California reads like a weird, gigantic, and superhuman fairy tale.

The whole mass of the Alps Mountains could be put into the 600 miles of this abysmal chasm of the Colorado River without filling it up.

It is a crying shame that any American should be deprived of seeing this greatest abyss on earth, nature's masterpiece upon this planet.

One eloquent writer has closed his description of the Colorado River with the exclamation:

This living death!  
This tragedy divine!  
This woe and chaos sublime!  
This masterpiece of  
Heat, water, and time!

Let me say to each of you members of this committee that if you have never visited that canyon and rode down the Bright Angel Trail on a mule your education and knowledge of American scenery will never be anywhere near complete until you do.

As you go down Jacob's Ladder and the Devil's Corkscrew on the Bright Angel Trail you will have many grave apprehensions that you are liable to be a bright angel any minute. But you won't. A misstep of the mule you are riding would drop you straight down 1,000 feet and into eternity long before you and the mule stopped rolling. While the mule will very often nonchalantly step within three-quarters of an inch of instant death, yet he doesn't care to fall into the abyss himself, so you will be spared, and this trip to nature's picture gallery of weird and mysterious grandeur will be one of the most charming and never-to-be-forgotten episodes in your life.

The CHAIRMAN. You also have some reports from various departments of the Government?

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, sir. I asked the chairman to kindly refer this resolution to the Interior Department and the War Department for a report, and you will recall, Mr. Chairman, that I suggested you asking for a specific report from the Interior Department, first, as to the jurisdiction of Congress to consider this measure, and second, as to whether or not it would be more appropriate for Congress or for the State legislatures to bring about this change, and third, as to what precedents, if any, there were for this legislation, and the In-



terior Department in their report has answered all three of those questions, besides reporting favorably upon the measure generally.

The War Department has also reported that they can see no objection to the legislation, and the United States Geological Survey at my request has also made quite an elaborate report upon the history of these rivers, their nomenclature, water supply, etc., and I have those reports here and will ask that they be made a part of this record.

Mr. SIMS. As I understand, no part of that river is navigable

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, sir; the lower portion of the Colorado River is navigable; both in fact and by international treaty.

Mr. SIMS. I mean the Grand River?

Mr. TAYLOR. No, sir; the Grand River is not a navigable stream. There is enough water in it to float a ship, but the current is too swift and the bottom of the stream too rocky for navigation. I probably should say that the Grand River is what is known as a "meandered" stream. That is, the Government surveys in the allotment of public lands, etc., extends down to the high-water line, and as I recall it, the bottom of the stream from the junction of the Grand and the Green up to nearly my home in Colorado is owned and retained by the Government of the United States, and is therefore under the jurisdiction of Congress.

Mr. SIMS. But the river is not practically navigable?

Mr. TAYLOR. No, sir.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion let me say: That the Colorado River is formed by the Grand and the Green. The Grand is the father and the Green the mother, and Colorado wants the name to follow the father.

When you visit the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, as you all will I hope some time, and stand as you will awe inspired on the rim of that gigantic chasm, and from that dizzy lookout see a hundred miles of that stupenduous workshop of nature, and look 7 miles away and 6,000 feet down into the deepest gorge there is anywhere in the earth's crust, to the Colorado River shining in the clear Arizona sunshine at the bottom of the gorge, while it is 300 feet wide, it looks like only a tiny silver thread. There is a very popular, beautiful, and famous song, which I hope you have heard, entitled: "Where the silvery Colorado wends its way," and I hope you gentlemen will help me wend the silvery Colorado's way into the grand State that bears its name.

The CHAIRMAN. This concludes the open hearing and the committee will go into executive session. The committee thanks you for your presentation, Mr. Taylor.

Mr. TAYLOR. Have I the permission of the committee to insert in the record the official reports and other indorsements of this measure, to which I have referred?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, sir.

(Several papers, reports, and documents were submitted by Mr. Taylor and are herewith printed in full, as follows:)

[H. J. Res. 460, Sixty-sixth Congress, third session.]

JOINT RESOLUTION To change the name of the Grand River in Colorado and Utah to the Colorado River.

Whereas the Colorado River, which traverses or forms the boundaries of the States of Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and California, is formed by the junction of the Grand and Green Rivers, in the State of Utah; and

Whereas by the act of Congress approved February 28, 1861, providing for the organization of the Territory of Colorado, the Territory was named Colorado "For the reason that the Colorado River arose in its mountains and there was a peculiar fitness in the name," and because "The name Colorado is more appropriate and more harmonious, and is the hardiest name that could be given to any Territory or State" (Congressional Globe, Feb. 4, 1861, vol. 31, part 2, 36th Cong., 2d sess, pp. 729 and 766, and Hall's History of Colorado, vol. 1, p. 258); and

Whereas the so-called Grand River is in reality and by official measurement the main stream and principal source of water supply of the said Colorado River, and historically, and in compliance with the policy of the United States Geographic Board, and for other reasons, should have been named and known as the Colorado River throughout its entire length from its source in Grand County, Colo., to its confluence with the Green River in Utah, and thence to its mouth in the Gulf of California: Therefore be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That from and after the passage of this act the river heretofore known as the Grand River, from its source in Grand County, Colo., to the point where it joins the Green River in the State of Utah and forms the Colorado River, shall be known and designated on the public records as the Colorado River.

SEC. 2. That the change in the name of said river shall in nowise affect the rights of the State of Colorado, the State of Utah, or of any county, municipality, corporation, association, or person; and all records, surveys, maps, and public documents of the United States in which said river is mentioned or referred to under the name of the Grand River shall be held to refer to the said river under and by the name of the Colorado River.

#### REPORT OF THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Washington, February 2, 1921.

HON. JOHN J. ESCH,

*Chairman Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,*

*House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. ESCH: I am in receipt of your letter of January 28, 1921, inclosing copy of H. J. Res. 460, "To change the name of the Grand River, in Colorado and Utah, to the Colorado River," and asking for an expression of opinion as to the jurisdiction of Congress to enact such a bill, whether it would be more appropriate for the State or Congress to consider such a measure, and whether there are any precedents for the action proposed.

In reply I have to advise you that the Grand River is an interstate stream, rising in and traversing the State of Colorado, passing through a part of the State of Utah, and forming, in conjunction with the Green River, the Colorado River, which, after passing through or forming the boundaries of a number of States, enters the Republic of Mexico and empties into the Gulf of California.

As you are aware, under the Constitution and decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, the jurisdiction of Congress over navigable rivers in matters relating to navigation and fisheries is defined, and while the question is open to some discussion, it is contended that this jurisdiction extends not only to the navigable portion of a stream but to the upper or nonnavigable portion which feeds the main stream. Whether this be true or not, it is clear that Congress would have this jurisdiction not only over streams now actually navigable in fact, but over those portions which can be made navigable by dams or other public works. Then, too, Congress has consistently exercised jurisdiction over interstate matters, such as interstate railroads, power lines, etc.

I do not believe that the changing of the name of an interstate stream should be left to State legislatures, and am of opinion, therefore, that such a measure as this should be considered by Congress, because of the interstate character of the stream, and because water appropriations, power appropriations, county boundaries, and numerous Federal, State, and county records now designate the stream as Grand River. It would be less confusing and would obviate legal questions if the change is specifically authorized by congressional action.

The only thing in the nature of a congressional precedent which I have been able to find is a joint resolution approved June 19, 1852 (vol. 10, p. 147, U. S.



Stat. L.), wherein the name of a river in the Territory of Minnesota, theretofore known as St. Peters, was changed to the Minnesota River.

If Congress shall deem it advisable to enact the measure, this department has no objection to interpose thereto.

Cordially, yours,

JOHN BARTON PAYNE, *Secretary.*

#### REPORT OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

[Second indorsement.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
February 1, 1921.

Respectfully returned to the chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, House of Representatives.

So far as the interests committed to this department are concerned, I do not know of any objection to the favorable consideration by Congress of the accompanying bill, House joint resolution 460, present session, to change the name of the Grand River, in Colorado and Utah, to the Colorado River.

W. R. WILLIAMS,  
*Assistant Secretary of War.*

#### REPORT OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,  
Washington, February 16, 1921.

Hon. E. T. TAYLOR,  
*House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. TAYLOR: In response to your oral request, I am sending you a statement of the history of the naming of the Colorado, Grand, and Green Rivers, and a statement of the history of naming the State of Colorado. I have also included a tabulation of the comparative stream flow records of these three rivers and a record of precedents in changing the name of a river by congressional action.

This material (with the exception of the stream flow records) has been compiled by Mr. James C. McCormick, who is a member of the United States Geographic Board.

I will send a number of copies of this material to Hon. John J. Esch, in response to a request from him for copies to be used by his committee.

Yours, very cordially,

GEO. OTIS SMITH,  
*Director.*

#### THE NAMING OF COLORADO RIVER.

Exploration northward from New Spain was stimulated by the wonderful reports of Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca in 1546 and of Fray Marcos de Niza (of Nice) in 1539. De Vaca, one of the survivors of the Narvaez expedition, which met disaster on the Gulf of Mexico coast, after six years of wandering across the continent, through Texas, Chihuahua, and Sonora, reached Culiacán in Sinaloa, at that time the northernmost settlement on the Gulf of California coast. Fray Marcos, sent out by the Viceroy Antonio de Mendoza, by an overland journey reached the Zuni pueblos in New Mexico, which he called the Seven Cities of Cibola. (Hodge, F. W., *Spanish Explorers in the Southern United States, 1528-1843*, pp. 3-8, 12-126, 275, 290-291, 1907.)

In 1539 Cortez, the conqueror, sent Francisco de Ulla from Acapulco with three vessels to explore the Pacific coast to the northward. Ulloa explored the Gulf of California to its head and the outer coast of the peninsula nearly to 30° north. He proved Lower California a peninsula and noted appearances which led him to believe that a great river entered the head of the gulf, though he did not see it. (H. H. Bancroft's *Works*, vol. 15, pp. 78-82; 1884; Hakluyt's *Voyages*, Goldsmid edition, vol. 3, pp. 317-377, 1891.) In 1540 Viceroy Mendoza sent out the Coronado expedition, in the course of which (1540-1542) the pueblo country of New Mexico and Arizona and the great plains as far northeast as central Kansas were explored; Colorado River and Grand Canyon were discovered; and the lower Colorado River was explored. (Winship, "The Coronado

Expedition, 1540-1542," 14th Ann. Rept. Bu. Am. Ethnology, Part I, pp. 341-344, 385, 395, 403, etc., 1896.)

The Coronado expedition, assembled and organized at Compostela on the Pacific coast near latitude 21°, started north February 23, 1540, with Francisco Vazquez Coronado, captain-general, in command. A stop was made at Culiacán, the most northerly settlement. On April 22, 1540, Coronado left Culiacán, and marched across country to the upper Sonora River, where he established a base at or near the site of the present town of Sonora.

Leaving Melchior Diaz in command at Sonora, the army, under Coronado, with Fray Marcos de Niza as guide, started from that place May 26 and, marching northeast, arrived at Cibola (Zuni) July 7. (Winship, op. cit., pp. 386-389.)

In the meantime Mendoza had sent two vessels in command of Hernando de Alarcón up the Gulf of California to cooperate with the land expedition. Leaving Acapulco on May 9, Alarcón was to follow the coast as closely as possible, get in touch with the army, carry heavy baggage, and render any assistance that Coronado should desire. He explored the coast as directed and reached the mouth of Colorado River August 26 without having seen anything of the army. With the assistance of the Indians he made two ascents of the river in boats, reaching a point some 25 miles above the mouth of Williams River. To the Colorado he gave the name Rio de Buena Guia (good guide). Of this he says in his report to Mendoza that in departing up this river the second time he ordered those on the ships to build a chapel on shore in honor of Nuestra Señora de Buena Guia, and that they should call this river the Rio de Buena Guia "because that is your lordship's device." (Winship, op. cit., pp. 403-406; Hakluyt, op. cit., vol. 4, p. 33.)

At the end of September the same year, 1540, Melchior Diaz with 25 men left Sonora for the coast to look for the vessels under Alarcón. He traveled slowly up the coast to the mouth of the Colorado River and northward along the east bank of the river. The weather was cold, and the Spaniards observed that the Indians carried burning sticks with which to warm themselves. This custom suggested the name which they give to the river, Rio del Tizon (firebrand). Diaz found a letter which Alarcón had buried at the foot of a tree near the river mouth. He ascended the river by the east bank 35 miles above the Gila; crossed the river and made a five days' journey into the desert to the west; returned to the west bank, which he followed to the mouth; and thence 30 miles down the west coast of the gulf. Here he died, January 8, 1541, from an accidental wound received 20 days before. (Winship, op. cit., pp. 406-407, 485-486, 501-502, 574.)

Meanwhile Coronado at Zuni was exploring and conquering in all directions. July 15 he sent a party under Pedro de Tobar to discover Tusayan (Moqui). This party returned the middle of August and reported that at Moqui they had heard rumors of a great river beyond. García Lopez de Cárdenas, with about 12 men, was sent to find this river. Cárdenas started about August 25 and was authorized to make a journey of 80 days. He went to Moqui, and from there, in a journey of 20 days, discovered the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, but failed in his attempts to descend to the river or to discover a crossing. Thus, in September or October, 1540, the Grand Canyon was discovered, and about the same time or soon afterwards the river there was correctly identified with the Rio del Tizon of Melchior Diaz. (Winship, op. cit., pp. 390, 489-490, 574-575.)

The Coronado expedition had proved disappointing, and no other expedition is known to have entered New Mexico 'till the Rodriguez expedition of 1581. This party went by way of the Rio Conchos and Rio Grande to the pueblos about Socorro and Bernalillo, visited Zuni to the west, and the buffalo plains to the east beyond the Pecos, and left missionaries in the Bernalillo region. The reports of this expedition renewed the enthusiasm for northern exploration and plans were formulated for the conquering and settling of New Mexico.

The contract for the conquest and settlement was finally awarded in 1595 to Juan de Oñate, who was made governor, adelantado, and captain-general of the Province of New Mexico. In 1598, Oñate reached the Santa Fe region with an army and a colony of 400 men, of whom 130 had their families. Oñate ruled New Mexico 'till 1605. By 1605 he and his subordinates had reexplored practically all the ground covered by Coronado and opened new trails. In 1604 he made a journey from San Gabriel, his headquarters near Santa Fe,



to the head of the Gulf of California. He went by way of Zuñi, Moqui and Williams River to the Colorado and down the east bank of that river to the gulf. Crossing the Colorado Chiquito, or little Colorado "ten leagues" southwest of Moqui, he named it "Rio Colorado \* \* \* because the water is nearly red" (Bolton, E. B., "Spanish Explorations in the Southwest 1542-1706, p. 269, 1916). Be it noted that the name "Colorado" is here given for the first time, not to the Colorado River, but to one of its branches, the Little Colorado. To the Colorado itself, Oñate gave the name "Rio Grande de Buena Esperanza" (good hope). (Bolton, Op. cit. p. 271; H. H. Bancroft's Works, vol. 17, p. 155, 1889.)

At some indefinite time during the next hundred years the name Colorado was transferred from the Little Colorado to the main river, and before the end of the century had been pretty well established. Father Kino, the great Piman apostle, 1683-1711, uses the name freely, as he does the alternative name Rio del Norte; and he even bestows upon it a new name, Rio de los Apostoles. On his map, compiled in 1701, he letters the River Rio Colorado, "o (or) del Norte." He insists over and over again that it "is the true and real Rio del Norte of the ancients." To see the point of this it is necessary to recall that in Kino's time and for a hundred years before, the Rio del Norte was the Rio Grande above El Paso. (Bolton, H. E., Kino's Historical Memoir of Pimeria Alta by Father Eusibio Francisco Kino, vol. 1, map frontispiece, pp. 242, 249, 251-253, 258, 305, 310, 316, 322, 348; vol. 2, pp. 243, 244, 253.)

A revolt of the Pueblo Indians in 1680 resulted in the entire evacuation of New Mexico by the Spaniards until its reconquest by Vargas in 1692-1694, when most of the missions were reestablished also. San Diego, the first of the California missions, was established in 1769; and in the next 30 years 17 others had been established, dotting the coast from San Diego to San Francisco Bay. From the establishment of San Diego onward the missionaries and the traders were equally eager to discover the most direct and feasible route from Santa Fe to California.

Father Silvestre Velez de Escalante, then stationed at the Zuni mission, spent eight days at Moqui in June, 1775, trying to discover whether there was an Indian trail across the Grand Canyon. He failed to extract any information from the Indians, and concluded that the canyon was impassable. In a letter on the subject written to Father Garces August 18, 1775, he called the river or the canyon Rio Grande de los Cosninos. The Cosnina (Havasupai) Indians were settled on Cataract Creek. He also mentioned a Rio de los Misterios which Garces asserts is Colorado River. (Harris, Dean W. R., The Catholic Church in Utah [Escalante's Diary and Travels], pp. 96-98, 1909; Coues, Elliott, On the Trail of a Spanish Pioneer, Garces Diary, 1775-76, vol. 2, p. 366, 1900.) The next year, 1776, Garces himself traveled from Mohave to Moqui, and went into the Grand Canyon at the bend below the Little Colorado on June 26. He named the canyon Puerto de Bucareli (Bucareli's Pass) in honor of the then viceroy (Coues, op. cit., p. 348).

In 1776 Father Escalante and Father Francisco Atanasio Dominguez, with a small party, made a route from Santa Fe to San Diego. They left Santa Fe July 29 and arrived back in Santa Fe January 2, 1777. They went northwest and north by way of the valley of the rivers Chama, San Juan, Dolores, and Uncompahgre, crossed Gunnison and Grand Rivers above their junction, and still in Colorado, the White River. Turning west between White and Yampa Rivers, they crossed Green River, went up the valley of Duchesne River and across the mountains to Utah Lake. From here traveling south they passed to the east of Sevier Lake, up the valley of Beaver River in Utah and down the valley of Virgin River in Arizona. From the Virgin they returned to Santa Fe, crossing the Colorado near the Utah-Arizona boundary.

When crossing Green River Escalante wrote: "It (the San Buenaventura or Green River) forms a junction with the San Clemente (White River) but we do not know if it does so with other rivers previously mentioned"—namely, the Grand, Gunnison, Dolores, etc. (Harris, op. cit., pp. 164-165.) But near the end of his journey after fording the Colorado (the Rio Grande de los Cosninos) northwest of Moqui, he is satisfied "that the rivers Navajo (San Juan) and Dolores flow into it here, as do all the other rivers mentioned in this journal." (Harris, op. cit., p. 226.) This seems certainly to include the Green as well as the Grand; but the map makers overlooked it; and though properly connecting the Grand River drainage with the Colorado, the upper Green River, called Buenaventura, with its branches down to and including the San Clemente

(White River) they carried off into the Pacific Ocean. It was not until about 1830 that the map makers began to show the true relations, even in the most general way. The northern limits of Kino's map, 1705 (reproduced in Bolton, op. cit.) is Moqui; and Father Font's map, 1777, of Garces explorations (reproduced by Coues, op. cit.) stops short of the junction of Green and Grand Rivers.

The various names bestowed on Colorado River are given below in chronological order:

Date.	Name.	By whom named.
1540.....	Rio de Buena Guia.....	Alarcón.
1540.....	Rio del Tizon.....	Diaz.
Unknown.....	Rio del Norte.....	Unknown.
1605.....	Rio Grande de Buena Esperanza.....	Oñate.
1605.....	Rio Colorado, given to Little Colorado.....	Do.
Unknown.....	Rio Colorado, transferred to Colorado.....	Unknown.
1697.....	Rio de los Martires.....	Kino.
1775.....	Rio Grande de los Cosninos (Grand Canyon).....	Escalante.
1776.....	Puerto de Bucareli (Grand Canyon).....	Garces.

The following forms have also been much used: Rio Colorado del Norte; Rio Colorado del Occidente; Rio Colorado of the West.

#### THE NAMING OF GRAND RIVER.

Grand River, both above and below its junction with Gunnison River, was named Rio San Rafael by Fathers Dominguez and Escalante in 1776. To the south branch, the present Gunnison River, they gave the name Rio San Javier (Xavier) and reported the Ute Indian name as Tomichi. In this area Pike's maps, 1805-1807, like other early maps, are difficult to interpret. His "Rio de los Animas" (las Animas) is much more like Grand River than his "Rio San Rafael." In 1843 Fremont lettered it Grand River, as did Capt. Stansbury in 1849.

But for long years the maps showed great diversity of nomenclature. Below its junction with the Gunnison, this river was usually called Grand River, rarely Rio Colorado or Grand, and even Colorado. Above the junction it was called Grand, Bunkara (Cf. Nah-un-kah-rea below), Blue, and North Fork of Grand River. Gunnison River was named variously Eagle, Eagle Tail, South Fork of Grand, Grande, and Grand River.

The maps in Pacific Railroad Reports, Volume II, 1861, carry the name Grand River up the branch which is now Gunnison River, and call the north branch, from the mouth of the Gunnison to its source in Middle Park, Blue River. In 1853 Capt. Gunnison led an exploring expedition down the river which now bears his name and westward to Sevier Lake in Utah, where he was killed by Indians. Lieut. Beckwith, who wrote the report of the expedition, and consistently called this branch Grand River, says (Pac. Railroad Repts. 2, 50, 1855): "Grand River \* \* \* joins the Nah-un-kah-rea or Blue River of the Indians and mountain men, which rises in the Middle Park and is erroneously called Grand River on some of the most correct maps." Later on (p. 57) the expedition fords Blue River just above the junction, "the volume of water being twice that of Grand River."

In after years Capt. Gunnison's name became gradually fixed on the branch which he explored, and the name Grand on the north or main branch, while the name Blue River now describes a small south branch of the latter in Summit County, Colo.

#### THE NAMING OF GREEN RIVER.

Green River was called Rio de San Buenaventura by Dominguez and Escalante in 1776, and Escalante says (Diario, Sept. 17, 1776), that it was so named in 1763 by Fr. Alonso de Posada. Thinking that it flowed to the west, the map makers represented it as crossing the Great Basin and flowing into the Pacific Ocean. Thus it was that the River Buenaventura became the famous "ghost river" which for years haunted the maps of the Far West. Pike, 1805-1807, mapped it with headwaters in the position of upper Green River, hav-



ing an affluent, Rio de San Clemente (Escalante's name for White River, an east branch of the Green River), and flowing southwest into Sevier Lake (nameless). Green River (lower) including part of the upper Colorado, he letters "Rio Zanguananos." This, one of the names of Green River used before and after Pike, was written variously Zaguuananos, Saguaguanas, Akaquaint, etc.

Before 1811, however, upper Green River was known to be connected with the Colorado. The Astorians called it both Spanish River and Colorado River. Irving's Astoria says that it was named Spanish River by the hunters, and Chittenden (History of the Fur Trade 2, 779), cites the Missouri Gazette of May 15, 1813, as showing that the Astorians called it Colorado or Spanish River. It was called Rio Colorado by Jedediah S. Smith in 1824 and Rio Colorado of the West by William H. Ashley in 1825 (Ashley's Narrative in Dale, Ashley-Smith Explorations, 151, 155, 157, 1918). Bonneville, 1837, lettered it Colorado of the West on his Map of the Territory West of the Rocky Mountains; and Fremont (Narrative, Aug. 16, 1843) records that he had often heard Green River called Rio Colorado by Indians.

Escalante, 1776, having crossed Gunnison and Grand Rivers above their junction, and having crossed Green River between the White and the Yampa wrote: "This river of San Buenaventura (Green River), is the largest that we have crossed." (Harris, the Catholic Church in Utah, p. 164, 1909.) The Green River is larger than the Grand, and is the upper continuation of the Colorado. (Maj. Powell, Exploration of the Colorado River of the West and its Tributaries, 1869-1872, Smithsonian Institution, p. 3, 1875.) "Of the tributaries of the Colorado" says Chittenden (Hist. of the Fur Trade, 2, 779, 1902), "the Green River, which is really the main stream, is the largest." And again (same page) "For a time the name (Colorado) applied to the whole river, but now only to that portion below the junction of the Green and Grand." On the other hand, the following data supplied by the Water Resources Branch of the United States Geological Survey shows that Grand River carries the greater volume of water:

	Green River.	Grand River.	Colorado River.
Length along course.....	700 miles.....	423 miles.....	1,000 miles (below junction).
Drainage area.....	44,400 square miles.....	25,900 square miles.....	244,000 square miles.
Mean flow at.....	Green River, Utah.....	Cisco, Colo.....	Yuma.
Drainage area above station.	41,000 square miles <sup>1</sup> .....	23,800 square miles <sup>1</sup> .....	242,000 square miles. <sup>1</sup>
1914.....	9,780 second-feet.....	11,800 second-feet <sup>2</sup> .....	27,500 second-feet.
1915.....	4,990 second-feet.....	7,590 second-feet.....	21,800 second-feet.
1916.....	7,900 second-feet.....	10,300 second-feet.....	29,600 second-feet.
1917.....	11,200 second-feet.....	12,100 second-feet.....	30,500 second-feet.
Mean for period.....	8,470 second-feet.....	10,400 second-feet.....	27,400 second-feet.
Mean per square mile.....	0.207 second-foot.....	0.437 second-foot.....	0.113 second-foot.

NOTE.—Only four years of comparative records available, other yearly records are incomplete.

<sup>1</sup> 92 per cent of total area.

<sup>2</sup> Moab station, drainage area, 24,300 square miles.

In his narrative, August 16, 1843, Fremont says that 25 years before, Green River was familiarly known to the hunters and traders by the Crow Indian name Seeds-ke-dee-agie (Prairie Hen River). This name Seedskedee River, was in use before 1826, for in that year the above-mentioned J. S. Smith, coming upon Colorado River below the Grand Canyon, identified it with Green River by naming it "Seedskeeder" (Dale, Op. cit. 189, 190). This name, with others, seems to have been in common use down to 1840.

The name Green River dates at least as far back as 1824, Dale (Op. cit., 156) refers to a news item in the Missouri Intelligencer, June 25, 1825, of a party leaving Santa Cruz in November, 1824, to trap on "Green River." Fremont says (Nar. Aug. 16, 1843), that the Spaniards, contrasting "Its timbered shores and green wooded islands with its dry sandy plains", named it Rio Verde (Green River); Bancroft (History of Utah, 21, 1889), speaks of an employee of Ashley's, "Mr. Green who gave his name to Green River"; and Chittenden advances the theory (Op. cit. 2, 779) that the name may have been suggested by the color of the water.

# THE NAMING OF THE STATE OF COLORADO.

The act of Congress providing for the organization of the Territory of Colorado was approved February 28, 1861. As introduced and as passed by the House, the bill named the proposed new organization the Territory of Idaho—"Idaho" having been selected from many names proposed. In the Senate, on motion of Senator Wilson of Massachusetts, the name of the Territory was amended by striking out "Idaho" and inserting "Colorado." "This was done at the suggestion of Delegate Williams, for the reason that the Colorado River arose in its mountains, hence there was a peculiar fitness in the name." (Frank Hall, History of Colorado, 1, 258, 1889.) Bancroft, however (History of Nevada, Colorado, and Wyoming, p. 413, 1890), says that "The name Colorado was given to it at the suggestion of the man (William Gilpin) selected for its first governor"; and he quotes from a manuscript of Gilpin's as follows: "Some wanted it called Jefferson, some Arcadia. I said the people have to a great extent named the States after the great rivers of the country, and the great feature of that country is the great Colorado River. 'Ah,' said he (Wilson of Massachusetts), 'that is it'; and he named it Colorado."

## LETTER SUBMITTED BY DR. C. HART MERRIAM, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 7, 1921.

Hon. JOHN J. ESCH,

Chairman Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,

House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Replying to your letter of January 28 concerning the proposed change of name of Grand River, in Colorado and Utah, to Colorado River, would say that the matter was brought to the attention of the United States Geographic Board at its meeting on February 3. No formal action was taken, the board preferring not to report on the subject until such time as the legislatures of the two States concerned, Colorado and Utah, in case they agree, shall have taken concurrent or similar action in the matter.

It may be stated, however, that the name Colorado River has been rarely, if ever, applied to the Grand River branch, while for a long period it was in common use for the Green.

Replying to your inquiry as to precedents, the only case known to me in which Congress has changed the established name of a geographic feature in the United States is that of a river in Minnesota. A joint resolution of the Thirty-second Congress, first session, approved June 19, 1852, recites:

"The river in the Territory of Minnesota heretofore known as St. Peter's shall be known and designated on the public records as the Minnesota River."

It appears, therefore, that Congress has been reluctant to change geographic names which by long usage in historical, scientific, legal, and popular publications, and in the geographies and maps of the world have become firmly established. This also has been the policy of the Geographic Board.

I take pleasure in inclosing a brief historical résumé concerning the use of the name Colorado for the Green (prepared by me since the last meeting of the board and, therefore, not approved by it), and also a more comprehensive memorandum prepared by Mr. McCormick, of the Geological Survey.

Trusting these may be of service to your committee,

Very truly, yours,

C. HART MERRIAM,

Chairman United States Geographic Board.

## COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THE UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,

Washington, February 16, 1921.

Hon. E. T. TAYLOR,

House of Representatives:

MY DEAR MR. TAYLOR: In reply to your telephonic request for information regarding the status of the United States Geographic Board:

This board was created by Executive order on September, 1890, under the designation "Board on Geographic Names." This designation was changed by Executive order on August 10, 1906, to "United States Geographic Board."



I am informed that Congress has never made a direct appropriation to carry on the work of the board except such appropriations as have been made for printing its reports. The first annual report of the United States Board on Geographic Names was published as House of Representatives Executive Document No. 16, Fifty-second congress, first session.

I am informed that the second, third, and fourth reports were published by contributions from various departments interested in the work of the board. The sundry civil bill for 1920 carried an appropriation for printing for the United States Geographic Board of \$2,000. (See page 74, sundry civil bill, 1920.) I am informed that this appropriation was not used. The sundry civil bill for 1921 carried the same appropriation. (See p. 77 of that bill.) Provision for printing for the United States Geographic Board is included in the sundry civil bill for 1922. (See p. 157, H. R. 15422, 66th Cong., 3d sess.)

I take pleasure in inclosing a copy of the fourth annual report of the board, which is the latest copy that has been printed. This report contains all of the Executive orders relating to the work of the board, except the order of December 30, 1919, creating the Board of Surveys and Maps and rescinding some of the powers of the United States Geographic Board. A copy of this order is attached.

The list of decisions of the board given in the fourth annual report shows many changes in names. Most of these changes are selections from several names applied locally to the same feature. A number of them show complete changes from well-established usage. For example, the name Santa Lucia Peak was changed to Junipero Serra. (See p. 135 of the report.)

I have not a record of the present membership of the board, but have asked the secretary, Mr. Charles S. Sloane, to send you a list of the present members of the board.

Yours, very cordially,

GEORGE OTIS SMITH, *Director*.

#### EXECUTIVE ORDER.

In order to coordinate the activities of the various map-making agencies of the executive departments of the Government, to standardize results, and to avoid unnecessary duplication of work, I hereby constitute a Board of Surveys and Maps, to be composed of one representative of each of the following organizations:

1. Corps of Engineers, United States Army.
2. United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Department of Commerce.
3. United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior.
4. General Land Office, Department of the Interior.
5. Topography Branch, Post Office Department.
6. Bureau of Soils, Department of Agriculture.
7. United States Reclamation Service, Department of the Interior.
8. Bureau of Public Roads, Department of Agriculture.
9. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior.
10. Mississippi River Commission, War Department.
11. United States Lake Survey, War Department.
12. International (Canadian) Boundary Commission, Department of State.
13. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.
14. United States Hydrographic Office, Navy Department.

The individual members of this board shall be appointed by the chiefs of the various organizations named and shall serve without additional compensation.

The board is directed to make recommendations to the several departments or to the President for the purpose of coordinating all map-making and surveying activities of the Government and to settle all questions at issue between executive departments relating to surveys and maps in so far as their decisions do not conflict with existing laws.

This board shall perfect a permanent organization and shall hold meetings at stated intervals, to which representatives of the map-using public shall be invited for the purpose of conference and advice.

This board shall establish a central information office in the United States Geological Survey for the purpose of collecting, classifying, and furnishing to the public information concerning all map and survey data available in the several Government departments and from other sources.

All Government departments will make full use of the above board as an advisory body and will furnish all available information and data called for by the board.

So much of the Executive order of August 10, 1906, as grants additional advisory powers to the United States Geographic Board is hereby rescinded and these additional powers are transferred to the Board of Surveys and Maps.

WOODROW WILSON, *President*.

The WHITE HOUSE,  
December 30, 1919.

UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD,  
Washington, February 16, 1921.

MY DEAR MR. TAYLOR: In compliance with your telephonic request of to-day, I am inclosing herewith a list of the present members of the United States Geographic Board.

Very truly, yours,

C. S. SLOANE, *Secretary*.

HON. EDWARD THOMAS TAYLOR,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

FEBRUARY 16, 1921.

#### MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD.

- Mr. Frank Bond, Chief Clerk, General Land Office, Washington, D. C.  
 Mr. James W. McGuire, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C.  
 Rear Admiral Lloyd H. Chandler, hydrographer, Bureau of Navigation, Department of the Navy, Washington, D. C.  
 Mr. Goodwin D. Ellsworth, superintendent Division of Post Office Service, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C.  
 Mr. J. H. Robinson, topographer, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C.  
 Mr. William McNier, Chief Bureau of Accounts, Department of State, Washington, D. C.  
 Dr. C. Hart Merriam, 1919 Sixteenth Street NW., Washington, D. C.  
 Mr. John S. Mills, editor and assistant chief of division, Department of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.  
 Mr. William C. Barnes, Assistant Forester, United States Forest Service, Washington, D. C.  
 Mr. George R. Putnam, Commissioner of Lighthouses, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.  
 Mr. James E. Payne, chief of proof room, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.  
 Mr. J. N. B. Hewitt, ethnologist, Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.  
 Mr. James McCormick, editor of maps, United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.  
 Mr. C. S. Sloane, geographer, Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C.

#### PRECEDENT FOR CHANGING NAMES OF RIVERS BY CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

[Joint resolution, Thirty-second Congress, first session.]

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That from and after the passage of this act the river in the Territory of Minnesota heretofore known as the Saint Peters shall be known and designated on the public records as the Minnesota River.

Approved, June 19, 1852 (U. S. Stat. L., vol. 10, p. 147).

#### THE COLORADO RIVER MADE NAVIGABLE BY TREATY.

The treaty of peace, friendship, limits, and settlement between the United States of American and the Mexican Republic known as the treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, which was concluded between our country and Mexico on February 2,



1848, and duly ratified by both countries and proclaimed on July 4, 1848, provides, in article 6, as follows:

"The vessels and citizens of the United States shall in all times have a free and uninterrupted passage by the Gulf of California and by the River Colorado, below its confluence with the Gila, to and from their possessions situated north of the boundary lines defined in a preceding article, it being understood that this passage is to be by navigating the Gulf of California and the River Colorado, and not by land without the express consent of the Mexican Government."

Afterwards, at the time of the negotiation of the Gadsden Purchase from Mexico, we negotiated another treaty, entitled "A treaty of boundary, cession of territory, transit of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, etc.," known as the Gadsden treaty, which was concluded December 30, 1853, and proclaimed June 30, 1854. By that treaty the boundary lines were changed between the United States and Mexico, and as a result of that change article 4 of the Gadsden treaty provides as follows:

"The provisions of the sixth and seventh articles of the treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo having been rendered nugatory for the most part by cession of territory granted in the first article are hereby abrogated and annulled, and the provision as herein expressed substituted therefor: The vessels and citizens of the United States shall, in all times, have free and uninterrupted passage to the Gulf of California, to and from their possessions situated north of the boundary line of the two countries; it being understood that this passage is to be by navigating the Gulf of California and the River Colorado, and not by land, without the express consent of the Mexican Government; and precisely the same provision, stipulation, and restriction, in all respects, are hereby agreed upon and adopted, and shall be scrupulously observed and enforced by the two contracting Governments, in reference to the Rio Colorado, so far and for such distance as the middle of that river is made their common boundary line by the first article of this treaty."

That provision of that treaty is still in full force and effect and has been respected by the two Governments ever since. And there are a large number of decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States construing and enforcing those provisions of that treaty. As every one knows, a solemn treaty between two Governments is, next to the Constitution, the highest law of the land.

The Colorado River is not only navigable in fact, but it is expressly made navigable by an international treaty, and has been recognized as such by both nations for 73 years, and even the Congress of the United States can not pass a law declaring that river not to be navigable, at least in so far as concerns the portion of it affected by that treaty.

#### COPY OF SENATE BILL 79 BEFORE THE COLORADO LEGISLATURE.

The following is a copy of the bill now pending (Feb. 18, 1921) before the twenty-third general assembly of the State of Colorado, and which has passed the senate and is before the house, with every assurance of its early passage and approval by Gov. Shoup:

[Senate bill No. 79. By Senator Bannister.]

A BILL For an act concerning the change of the name of the Grand River to the Colorado River.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

SECTION 1. That the name of the Grand River in Colorado is hereby changed to the Colorado River, by which name said river shall hereafter be known, from its source to where it crosses the western boundary of the State of Colorado.

SEC. 2. The change of the name of said river shall in no wise affect the rights of this State, or of any county, municipality, corporation, association, or person; and all laws, records, surveys, maps, and other public or private documents of every kind and nature in which the said river is mentioned or referred to under or by the name of the Grand River shall hereafter refer to the same river and with the same purport and effect under and by the name of the Colorado River.

#### RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Whereas there is now pending in the House of Representatives of Congress a joint resolution (H. J. Res. 460, Taylor) to change the name of the Grand River in Colorado and Utah to Colorado River; and

Whereas the so-called Grand River is in reality and by official measurement the main stream and upper continuation of the Colorado River and the main source of water supply of said Colorado River; and

Whereas the State of Colorado, through its streams which furnish the water supply of the Colorado River, such as the Grand, San Juan, Yampa, and White Rivers, furnishes approximately 60 per cent of the entire volume or run-off of the said Colorado River; and

Whereas the change in name of the Grand to the Colorado River in no way detracts from the reputation of any other State and is a distinction to which the State of Colorado is entitled as the main source of the Colorado River, and, further, for the reason that it identifies this State with a great river bearing the same name, which State received its Territorial name of Colorado for the reason that "the Colorado River arose in its mountains, hence a peculiar fitness in its name" (excerpt from the Congressional Globe, Feb. 4, 1861, vol. 31, pt. 2, 36th Cong., 2d sess., pp. 729 and 766): Therefore be it

*Resolved by the Board of Directors of the State Historical and Natural History Society of Colorado,* That it approves and recommends the passage of H. J. Res. 460, by Congressman Taylor, now pending in Congress.

[SEAL.]

DR. WM. N. BEGGS,  
*President.*

ELMER A. KENYON,  
*Secretary.*

Resolution adopted at a meeting of the board February 7, 1921.

#### *Data pertaining to the Colorado River.*

In further support of the foregoing resolution of the Colorado Historical and Natural History Society, Prof. Ellsworth Bethel, the director and curator, suggests the following data pertaining to the Colorado River and reasons for changing the name of the Grand River to Colorado River:

The Grand River is the main stream or continuation of the Colorado River, as shown by its discharge or run-off at the confluence of the Grand and Green, being normally nearly 30 per cent greater than that of the Green. (It should be noted that the Green has 35 miles of its course in Colorado and receives more than a third of its water through the Yampa and White Rivers, situated in Colorado.)

The Grand River furnishes more than 40 per cent of all the water of the Colorado River.

The Colorado River receives nearly 60 per cent of all its water from the State of Colorado through the Grand, San Juan, Yampa, White, and other rivers.

It will be observed that the Green River, though longer than the Grand, drains a region of arid plains, and if the water of the Yampa, White, and other rivers supplying water from Colorado be deducted it would have a drainage of only about one-third of that of the Grand.

The following records of run-off of rivers is an average of all records up to and including 1914:

	Acre feet.
Colorado River at Yuma.....	17,000,000
Grand River at its mouth.....	6,720,000
Green River at its mouth.....	5,480,000
Tributaries of the Green (water derived from Colorado):	
Yampa River at its mouth.....	1,000,000
White River at its mouth.....	500,000
Tributary of the Colorado River (water chiefly from Colorado):	
San Juan River at its mouth.....	2,400,000

The foregoing data are from Water Supply Paper 395. Papers Nos. 409 and 439 give the discharge for 1915 and 1916, and show even larger percentages in favor of the Grand River.



The people of this State are anxious to have the Colorado River identified with this State since it bears the same name. It is a distinction to which we think we are entitled, aside from any reason of sentiment. Grand is a rather commonplace name, applicable to any beautiful stream. We already have one river by this name, the Rio Grande (Spanish for Grand River).

The people residing along the Grand River, I am told, are very enthusiastic for this change, and it is favored by the State Historical and Natural History Society, the Colorado Mountain Club, the Sons of Colorado, and many other patriotic organizations as well as a large number of prominent men, such as ex-Gov. E. M. Ammons, Hon. Thomas F. Dawson, president of the Sons of Colorado, and others.

The 80 miles of the Grand River in Utah will still retain that name until the Legislature of Utah takes action, or it is changed by Congressman Taylor's bill or by the United States Geographic Board. The change in no way detracts from any other State.

ELLSWORTH BETHEL,  
State Museum, Denver, Colo.

#### RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE COLORADO ENGINEERING COUNCIL.

DENVER, COLO., February 10, 1921.

Hon. EDWARD T. TAYLOR,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I beg to hand you herewith copy of resolutions unanimously adopted at last evening's session of the Colorado Engineering Council.

Action in this matter is now being taken in the Colorado Legislature, and I am to-day transmitting copy of the resolutions to Senator O. E. Bannister, who introduced the measure here this week.

Won't you please advise if the council can be of further assistance. It is at your service in all matters pertaining to the Colorado Commonwealth.

Yours, very truly,

ARTHUR RIDGWAY,  
President.

#### RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, historically, geographically, and otherwise universally, there is every good reason in favor and no valid objection against the change: Be it therefore

*Resolved*, That the name of the Grand River from its source to its confluence with the Green River in Utah to form the Colorado River be changed to the Colorado River; and be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the State legislature now in session and also the National Congressman, the Hon. E. T. Taylor, who has introduced a congressional measure for the purpose.

THE COLORADO ENGINEERING COUNCIL,  
C. M. LIGHTBURN, Secretary.

Unanimously adopted by the council at its regular session at Denver, February 9, 1920.

#### LETTER SUBMITTED BY THE COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB.

THE COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB,  
Denver, Colo., February 12, 1921.

Hon. EDWARD T. TAYLOR,  
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. TAYLOR: The board of directors of the Colorado Mountain Club yesterday most heartily indorsed your bill for changing the name of the Grand River to the Colorado. It is a good move, and we hope you can put it across.

Our secretary will write you more in detail, but I thought I would drop you a line at once to advise you of our action.

Sincerely,

GEO. H. HARVEY, JR., President.

#### THE HIGH PEAKS OF COLORADO.

[A list gathered from the latest available authorities, of the named mountain summits in this State exceeding 14,000 feet in altitude. Compiled for The Colorado Mountain Club by Ellsworth Bethel and James Grafton Rogers.]

Colorado is the Mountain State of the Union. Of the 55 named peaks of the United States (exclusive of Alaska) which exceed 14,000 feet in height, Colorado has 42, California 12, and Washington 1. There are, probably, at least 5 more peaks of this altitude in Colorado which remain unnamed. It is estimated that one-seventh of the State stands above 10,000 feet in altitude, that it contains at least 350 peaks above 11,000 feet, 220 above 12,000 feet, 150 above 13,000 feet, and 47 above 14,000 feet.

The highest peak in the United States proper is Mount Whitney, Calif. (altitude 14,501 feet). According to the records of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Mount Elbert, Colo., ranks second (altitude 14,419.6 feet); Mount Rainier, Wash., ranks third (altitude 14,408 feet), and Mount Massive, Colo., ranks fourth (altitude 14,404 feet). According to the records of the United States Geological Survey, Mount Rainier ranks second and Mount Elbert and Mount Massive rank third and fourth, respectively, both having the same altitude, 14,402 feet. Blanca Peak, Colo. (altitude 14,390 feet), ranks fifth in the United States.

In the following table the first column gives the name of the mountain, the second column the altitude of the peak above sea level, the third column the survey or other authority from which the figure is derived, the fourth column the mountain range to which the peak belongs, and the fifth the county in which it lies. In the third column the letters U. S. C. & G. S. signify that the figure is fixed by the records of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. U. S. G. S. indicates the records of the United States Geological Survey; Colo. G. S., that it is taken from the Colorado Geological Survey; Hayden, that it is derived from the Hayden Survey of Colorado; and C. A. C., from work done by Prof. L. G. Carpenter and students of the Colorado Agricultural College. Pikes Peak and Longs Peak were determined by checked spirit leveling and are probably correct within 1 foot. Those credited to the United States Geological Survey were determined by vertical angulation and are probably correct within 10 feet, while those credited to Hayden and Wheeler were determined many years ago by mercurial barometer and may be in error as much as 100 feet.

Recent determinations have reduced the elevations of Mount of the Holy Cross and Buckskin Mountain so they no longer belong in this list. The name Crestone supplants Three Tetons, and Mount Wilson has been adopted in the place of Glacier Mountain.

Mount Evans, Longs Peak, and Pikes Peak are visible from Denver, Grays Peak and Torreys Peak can also be seen from some parts of the city. Pikes Peak is visible from Pueblo and Colorado Springs.

#### Mountain peaks in Colorado exceeding 14,000 feet in altitude.

Mountain.	Altitude.	Authority.	Range.	County.
Mount Elbert.....	14,419 14,402	U. S. C. & G. S. U. S. G. S.	Sawatch.....	Lake.
Mount Massive.....	14,404 14,402	U. S. C. & G. S. U. S. G. S.	do.....	Do.
Blanca Peak.....	14,390	do.....	Sangre De Cristo.....	Huerfano, Costilla, Alamosa.
Mount Harvard.....	14,375	Hayden.....	Sawatch.....	Chaffee.
Grays Peak.....	14,341	do.....	Front.....	Summit, Clear Creek.
Torreys Peak.....	14,336	do.....	do.....	Do.
LaPlata Mountain.....	14,332	U. S. G. S.	Sawatch.....	Chaffee.
Uncompahgre Peak.....	14,306	do.....	San Juan.....	Hinsdale.
Mount Lincoln.....	14,276	Colo. G. S.	Mosquito.....	Park.
Mount Evans.....	14,260	U. S. G. S.	Front.....	Clear Creek.
Castle Peak.....	14,259	do.....	Elk Mountains.....	Pitkin, Gunnison.
Quandary Peak.....	14,256	do.....	Park.....	Summit.
Longs Peak.....	14,255	C. A. C.	Front.....	Boulder.
Mount Wilson.....	14,250	U. S. G. S.	San Miguel.....	Dolores.
Mount Antero.....	14,245	Hayden.....	Sawatch.....	Chaffee.
Mount Shavano.....	14,239	do.....	do.....	Do.
Crestone Peak.....	14,233	do.....	Sangre De Cristo.....	Saguache, Custer.
Mount Cameron.....	14,233	Colo. G. S.	Mosquito.....	Park.
Mount Princeton.....	14,196	Hayden.....	Sawatch.....	Chaffee.
Mount Yale.....	14,187	do.....	do.....	Do.
Old Baldy Peak.....	14,176	do.....	Sangre De Cristo.....	Costilla.



*Mountain peaks in Colorado exceeding 14,000 feet in altitude—Continued.*

Mountain.	Altitude.	Authority.	Range.	County.
Mount Bross.....	14,163	Colo. G. S.....	Mosquito.....	Park.
San Luis Peak.....	14,149	U. S. G. S.....	La Garita.....	Saguache.
Mount Sneffles.....	14,143	do.....	San Juan.....	Ourray.
Maroon Peak.....	14,126	do.....	Elk Mountains.....	Pitkin.
Pikes Peak.....	14,110	do.....	Front.....	El Paso.
Kit Carson Peak.....	14,100	Hayden.....	Sangre De Cristo.....	Saguache, Custer.
Mount Windom.....	14,084	U. S. G. S.....	Needle Mountains.....	La Plata.
Mount Eotus.....	14,079	do.....	do.....	Do.
Culebra Peak.....	14,069	Hayden.....	Culebra.....	Las Animas, Costilla, La Plata.
Sunlight Mountain.....	14,053	U. S. G. S.....	Needle Mountains.....	La Plata.
Red Cloud.....	14,050	do.....	San Juan.....	Hinsdale.
Mount Bierstadt.....	14,046	do.....	Front.....	Clear Creek.
Mount Sherman.....	14,038	do.....	Mosquito.....	Park.
Stewart Peak.....	14,032	Hayden.....	Sawatch.....	Saguache.
Wilson Peak.....	14,026	U. S. G. S.....	San Miguel.....	San Miguel.
Wetterhorn Peak.....	14,020	do.....	San Juan.....	Ourray, Hinsdale.
Grizzly Mountain.....	14,020	do.....	Sawatch.....	Pitkin, Chaffee.
Sunshine Peak.....	14,018	do.....	San Juan.....	Hinsdale.
Handies Peak.....	14,008	do.....	do.....	Do.
Mount Democrat.....	14,000	Colo. G. S.....	Mosquito.....	Park, Lake.
Pyramid Peak.....	14,000	U. S. G. S.....	Elk Mountains.....	Pitkin.

## COMMUNICATIONS FAVORING THE RENAMING OF THE GRAND RIVER.

GRAND JUNCTION, COLO., December 4, 1920.

MR. J. H. RANKIN,  
Grand Junction, Colo.

DEAR SIR: The following resolution was passed at our regular meeting of November 30 regarding the proposed change in the name of the Grand to the Colorado River:

Whereas it is proposed that the name of the Grand River be changed to the Colorado River; and

Whereas, in the opinion of the city council, such a change would be desirable and proper, for the reason that the Grand River is in reality a part of the Colorado River: Therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the city council does hereby go on record as favoring the said change and is willing to cooperate in bringing about the change whereby the Grand River will be officially known as the Colorado River.

All the commissioners voting yea, the motion was declared carried.

[SEAL.]

J. F. WHITTAKER, *Secretary*.

## RESOLUTION OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION, COLO.

Whereas there is now a movement on foot for the changing of the name of the Grand River to the Colorado River; and

Whereas there are numerous good reasons for such change, among which are the following:

1. There are now many rivers which bear the name of "Grand" or "Rio Grand," which fact causes confusion.

2. The Colorado River and the Grand River are one and the same stream.

3. The Grand River is a part of the drainage system of the great Colorado River Basin and has its source in the State of Colorado.

4. The use of different names to represent different parts of the same river is productive of confusion, and many people are thereby misled as to the true geography of the country: Therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we do most heartily indorse and recommend that the name of the Grand River be changed to Colorado River.

Above resolution passed by the Chamber of Commerce of Grand Junction on January 11, 1921.

[SEAL.]

C. H. BIGGS, *Vice President*.  
W. P. ELA, *Secretary*.

## APPROVAL OF THE ROTARY CLUB.

We, Ollie E. Bannister, president of the Grand Junction Rotary Club, and Scott W. Heckman, secretary, do hereby certify that the following resolution was read and adopted by the Grand Junction Rotary Club at its regular meeting held November 24, 1920:

Whereas there is now a movement on foot for the changing of the name of the Grand River to the Colorado River, and

Whereas there are numerous good reasons for such change, among which are the following:

1. There are now many rivers which bear the name of "Grand" or "Rio Grande," which fact causes confusion.

2. The Colorado River and the Grand River are one and the same stream.

3. The Grand River is a part of the drainage system of the great Colorado River basin and has its source in the State of Colorado.

4. The use of different names to represent different parts of the same river is productive of much confusion and many people are thereby misled as to the true geography of the country; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we do most heartily indorse and recommend that the name of the Grand River be changed to Colorado River.

OLLIE E. BANNISTER,  
*President Grand Junction Rotary Club*.

Attest:

SCOTT W. HECKMAN,  
*Secretary Grand Junction Rotary Club*.

## APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MESA COUNTY, COLORADO.

Whereas, in the opinion of the board, the river now known as the Grand River, in the State of Colorado, is geographically and historically entitled to be known as the Colorado River; therefore be it

*Resolved*, by the board of county commissioners of Mesa County, Colo., that we favor the proposed change of the name of Grand River to that of Colorado River and urge the passage by Congress of such a law as will effect the proposed change.

D. G. RICE,  
GUS J. JOHNSON,  
GEO. MASTERS.

## OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF FRUITA, COLO.

[Copy of a resolution passed by the board of trustees, Fruita, Masa County, Colo., on December 6, 1920.]

Whereas the river which now is called the Grand River rises in Colorado and flows for a greater part of its length in the State of Colorado; and

Whereas the same river is called the Colorado River from its junction with the Green River to its mouth; and

Whereas uniformity in naming the river will be benefit and a convenience to the citizens of the State of Colorado: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved* by the board of trustees of the town of Fruita, Colo., that the plan to change the name from Grand River to Colorado River has the hearty endorsement of the said board: And be it further

*Resolved*, That the town clerk be instructed to transmit this resolution to such bodies and persons as may have to further such a change.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.  
FRANK C. MERRIELL, *Mayor*.  
WILLIAM D. McDOWELL, *Clerk*.

[SEAL.]



## OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF PALISADES, MESA COUNTY, COLO.

Whereas the stream known as the Grand River in Colorado, is really a continuance of the Colorado River in Utah: Therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we indorse the movement now on foot to change the name of the Grand River to Colorado River, from its source to the junction of the Green River.

The above resolution was passed at meeting of the town board November 23, 1920.

Palisades, November 23, 1920.

[SEAL.]

H. G. CRINEY, *Mayor*.

## OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF DE BEQUE, MESA COUNTY, COLO.

Whereas there is now a movement on foot for the changing of the name of the Grand River to the Colorado River; and

Whereas there are numerous good reasons for such change, among which are the following:

1. There are now many rivers which bear the name of "Grand" or "Rio Grande," which fact causes confusion.

2. The Colorado River and the Grand River are one and the same stream.

3. The Grand River is a part of the drainage system of the great Colorado River basin and has its source in the State of Colorado.

4. The use of different names to represent different parts of the same river is productive of much confusion and many people are thereby misled as to the true geography of the country: Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That we do most heartily indorse and recommend that the name of the Grand River be changed to Colorado River.

[SEAL.]

The TOWN OF DE BEQUE, COLO.,  
H. A. HANSEN, *Mayor*,  
By GRANT BALES.

Attest:

R. J. MEYN, *Clerk*.

Trustees:

C. G. HALEY.

H. A. QUIGLEY.

P. W. PALMER.

L. D. CRANDELL.

C. S. BLANCHARD.

## OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF GRAND VALLEY, GARFIELD COUNTY, COLO.

Whereas there is now a movement on foot for the changing of the name of the Grand River to the Colorado River; and

Whereas there are numerous good reasons for such change, among which are the following:

1. There are now many rivers which bear the name of "Grand" or "Rio Grande," which fact causes confusion.

2. The Colorado River and the Grand River are one and the same stream.

3. The Grand River is a part of the drainage system of the great Colorado River basin and has its source in the State of Colorado.

4. The use of different names to represent different parts of the same river is productive of much confusion and many people are thereby misled as to the true geography of the country: Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That we do most heartily indorse and recommend that the name of the Grand River be changed to Colorado River.

[SEAL.]

ELMER E. WHEATLEY,  
*Mayor*.

Attest:

GUS PASQUIER, *City Clerk*.

## OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF THE GRAND VALLEY COMMERCIAL CLUB, GRAND VALLEY, COLO.

Whereas there is now a movement on foot for the changing of the name of the Grand River to the Colorado River; and

Whereas there are numerous good reasons for such change, among which are the following:

1. There are now many rivers which bear the name of "Grand" or "Rio Grande," which fact causes confusion.

2. The Colorado River and the Grand River are one and the same stream.

3. The Grand River is a part of the drainage system of the Great Colorado River basin and has its source in the State of Colorado.

4. The use of different names to represent different parts of the same river is productive of much confusion and many people are thereby misled as to the true geography of the country: Therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we do most heartily indorse and recommend that the name of the Grand River be changed to Colorado River.

[SEAL.]

ELMER E. WHEATLEY, *President*,  
J. J. CONNER, *Secretary*.

## OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF RIFLE, GARFIELD COUNTY, COLO.

Whereas there is now a movement on foot for the changing of the name of the Grand River to the Colorado River; and

Whereas there are numerous good reasons for such change, among which are the following:

1. There are now many rivers which bear the name of "Grand" or "Rio Grande," which fact causes confusion.

2. The Colorado River and the Grand River are one and the same stream.

3. The Grand River is a part of the drainage system of the Great Colorado River basin and has its source in the State of Colorado.

4. The use of different names to represent different parts of the same river is productive of much confusion and many people are thereby misled as to the true geography of the country: Therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we do most heartily indorse and recommend that the name of the Grand River be changed to Colorado River.

Passed and adopted by the mayor and board of trustees of the town of Rifle, Garfield County, Colo., this 2d day of December, 1920.

[SEAL.]

BERT ELLIS, *Mayor*,  
G. W. PITTMAN, *Clerk*.

## OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF NEW CASTLE, GARFIELD COUNTY, COLO.

*Be it resolved by the board of trustees of the town of New Castle, Colo.,* That we heartily indorse the movement to change the name of the Grand River to the Colorado River.

Passed and approved this 13th day of December, 1920.

W. O. MARSHALL, *Mayor*.

Attest:

M. BURNETT, *Clerk*.

## OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF THE CITY OF ASPEN, PITKIN COUNTY, COLO.

Whereas there is now a movement on foot for the changing of the name of the Grand River to the Colorado River; and

Whereas there are numerous good reasons for such change, among which are the following:

1. There are now many rivers which bear the name of "Grand" or "Rio Grande," which fact causes confusion.

2. The Colorado River and the Grand River are one and the same stream.

3. The Grand River is a part of the drainage system of the great Colorado River basin and has its course in the State of Colorado.



4. The use of different names to represent different parts of the same river is productive of much confusion, and many people are thereby misled as to the true geography of the county: Therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we do most heartily indorse and recommend that the name of the Grand River be changed to Colorado River.

[SEAL.]

CHARLES WAGNER,

*Mayor of Aspen.*

HARRY A. BROWN,

*Alderman, City of Aspen.*

CHAS. DAILEY,

*Clerk, City of Aspen.*

---

APPROVAL OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF PITKIN COUNTY, COLO.

Whereas there is now a movement on foot for the changing of the name of the Grand River to the Colorado River; and

Whereas there are numerous good reasons for such change, among which are the following:

1. There are now many rivers which bear the name of "Grand" or "Rio Grande," which fact caused confusion.

2. The Colorado River and the Grand River are one and the same stream.

3. The Grand River is a part of the drainage system of the Great Colorado River Basin and has its source in the State of Colorado.

4. The use of different names to represent different parts of the same river is productive of much confusion, and many people are thereby misled as to the true geography of the county: Therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we do most heartily indorse and recommend that the name of the Grand River be changed to Colorado River.

[SEAL.]

MANFORD W. SMITH,

*Secretary Pitkin County Chamber of Commerce.*

FRED LIGHT,

*President Pitkin County Chamber of Commerce.*