



Spencer J. Cox

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, on May 24, 1869, the 10 members of the Colorado River Exploring Expedition pushed off from Expedition Island, Green River, Wyoming, to begin their 69-day adventure down the Green and Colorado rivers;

Whereas, two days later, the expedition entered present-day Daggett County, Utah, and began their observations of Flaming Gorge;

Whereas, during the week of June 20, 1869, the expedition reentered present-day Utah and spent the next 20 days mapping and surviving the vast canyons and open sagebrush flats of the Uinta Basin;

Whereas, at the conclusion of the expedition, six of the original crew emerged from the depths of the Grand Canyon and were rescued by Native Americans and early pioneer settlers;

Whereas, the scientific findings of the 1869 expedition were rudimentary and fundamental in defining more than 560 miles of rivers, tributaries and canyons within Utah;

Whereas, these rivers and canyons are vital to Utah's economy, health, well-being, recreation, and scenic beauty;

Whereas, Northeastern Utah has cemented itself as a primary origin of modern-day river rafting, with numerous commercial guide services for Flaming Gorge, Lodore Canyon, Whirlpool Canyon, Split Mountain, and Desolation Canyon;

Whereas, on this 155th anniversary, Uintah County, Utah, has commemorated the first Powell expedition by producing a full-scale, Broadway-style musical, "Let's Go – A John Wesley Powell Story" featuring the award-winning music of Alan Doyle; and,

Whereas, Uintah County will also be hosting its sixth-annual John Wesley Powell River Festival on July 25-27, 2024;

Now, therefore, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the state of Utah, do hereby recognize and commemorate 2024 as the

**155th Anniversary of the Colorado River
Exploring Expedition**

and July 25-28, 2024, as

Utah River Rafting Weekend

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer J. Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Spencer" and last name "Cox" being the most prominent parts.

Spencer J. Cox
Governor