NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM: ARIZONA

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM

The National Scenic Byways Program, established by Congress in 1991, recognizes historic, scenic, and culturally important roads, all of which promote economic development and tourism in communities around the U.S. There are more than 1,200 byways in all 50 states.

In 1982, Arizona enacted ARS 41-512 through ARS 41-518. These laws helped establish Arizona’s Parkways, Historic and Scenic Roads Program, administered by the Arizona Department of Transportation (DOT). The Parkways, Historic and Scenic Road Advisory Committee (PHSRAC) oversees the designation process and reviews byway requests recommendations. Members are comprised of 6 members representation various counties appointed by the Arizona state governor, and 5 members from 5 state agencies. Arizona boasts 28 scenic byways, 2 of which are All-American Roads: Route 66 and the Red Rock Scenic Byway.

KEY POINTS

- Arizona is home to 5 national scenic byways and 23 state scenic byways.
- Tourism in Sedona, home to the Red Rock All-American Road, generates 10,000 jobs and $13.5 million in tax revenue annually, saving each household $2,630.
- Grand Canyon National Park had a cumulative economic output of over $1.1 billion in gateway communities in 2019.

ARIZONA TRAVEL INDUSTRY FACTS

- SUPPORTED 194,000 JOBS
- GENERATED NEARLY $3.8 BILLION IN TAX REVENUE

Images: Red Rock All-American Road (top), Coronado Trial (right column)
All scenic byways exhibit one or more of six core intrinsic qualities — scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archaeological, or natural. For a road to be named a national scenic byway, it must first be designated a state, tribal, or federal agency scenic byway. Once achieving that, a road may apply for national scenic byway designation, but its intrinsic quality must be of regional significance. All-American Roads are the very best of the national scenic byways, demonstrating at least two intrinsic qualities of national significance.