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 Wyoming, more than 1,640 miles of roads were designated as scenic highways, byways, or loop tours by 1995, at which time the governor tasked the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) with overseeing the Wyoming Scenic Byways Program. To help coordinate the several federal and state agencies interested in scenic byways, the WYDOT established the Wyoming Scenic Byways Advisory Committee in 1998.

KEY POINTS

- Wyoming is home to 2 national scenic byways and 19 state scenic byways.
- Researchers studying Wyoming’s Beartooth Highway found that nonresident visitors contributed over $53 million in economic activity in 2012-2013.
- Buffalo Bill Cody Scenic Byway travels through the town of Cody, a gateway community to Yellowstone National Park, which had an estimated 3.8 million visitors in 2020.
SCENIC BYWAYS IN WYOMING

ALL-AMERICAN ROADS
1. BEARTOOTH HIGHWAY
2. FLAMING GORGE – GREEN RIVER BASIN

STATE SCENIC BYWAYS
3. BATTLE PASS SCENIC BYWAY
4. BIGHORN SCENIC BYWAY
5. BIG SPRING SCENIC BYWAY
6. BRIDGER VALLEY SCENIC BACKWAY
7. BUFFALO BILL CODY BYWAY
8. CHIEF JOSEPH SCENIC BYWAY
9. CLOUD PEAK SKYWAY
10. MEDICINE WHEEL PASSAGE
11. MIRROR LAKE SCENIC BYWAY
12. MUDDY CREEK BACKWAY
13. OREGON TRAIL HISTORIC BYWAY
14. RED GULCH/ALKALI NATIONAL BACK COUNTRY BYWAY
15. SEMINOE TO ALCLOVA SCENIC BACKWAY
16. SNOWY RANGE SCENIC BYWAY
17. SOUTH BIG HORN/RED WALL SCENIC BACKWAY
18. STAR VALLEY SCENIC BYWAY
19. WIND RIVER CANYON SCENIC BYWAY
20. WYOMING BLACK HILLS SCENIC BYWAY
21. WYOMING CENTENNIAL SCENIC BYWAY

Wyoming byways provide access to the state’s most spectacular public lands including:

- > 2 National Parks
- > 13 State Parks
- > 2 National Recreational Areas
- > 5 National Forests
- > 4 National Wildlife Refuges

Images: Grand Teton National Park (top), Yellowstone National Park (bottom)

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.