



IDAHO BYWAYS PROGRAM

Purpose

This policy delegates Idaho Transportation Board authority to designate specific portions of the State Highway System as a Scenic Byway, Historic Byway, and/or Back Country Byway upon public request to the Idaho Transportation Department, who shall act as the lead agency responsible for administering the Idaho Byways Program.

Legal Authority

Idaho Code 40-310(2) – The Board has a duty to promulgate maps of the state highway system.

Idaho Code 40-310(4) – The Board has the authority to design, locate and construct transportation systems in the best interest of the public.

Idaho Code 40-310(5) – The Board is responsible for establishing the standards of the state highway system.

Idaho Code 40-313(1) – The Board is authorized to erect and maintain suitable signs for public information and safety.

Idaho Code 40-313(3) – The Board is authorized to acquire, maintain and improve areas adjacent to highway for the restoration, preservation and enhancement of scenic beauty

Idaho Code 40-317 – The Board may enter into cooperative agreements with federal government and local governments for state highway purposes.

The goal of the Idaho Byways Program shall be to

- Nurture an appreciation of Idaho's heritage through the preservation, protection and enhancement of the state's scenic, natural, or recreational characteristics and historic, cultural, or archeological elements; and
- promote and enhance tourism on designated Idaho highways, roads and trails.

Local organizations, communities, etc. must initiate support, propose a possible route, enlist other agencies' support (when appropriate) and request that the Board consider designating a route as a State Scenic Byway, Historic Byway, or Back Country Byway. The designation shall be limited to routes with characteristics and elements identified below:

Scenic, natural, or recreational characteristics include:


- Rivers (streams, riverside drives, waterfalls, etc.)
- Lakes (tree-lined, mountain, vistas, islands, etc.)
- Mountains (spectacular, forested, panoramas, etc.)
- Valleys (canyons, gorges, vistas, etc.)
- Forests (national, old growth, slopes, groves, etc.)
- Farm/Ranch (agricultural, pastoral, etc.)
- Prairies (meadows, wild flowers, panoramas, etc.)
- Unique geology (craters, ice-caves, formations, etc.)
- Seasonal colors (fall colors, sparkling water, etc.)
- Varied (ski areas, fish hatcheries, wildlife areas, etc.)

Historic, cultural, or archeological elements include:

- Early pioneer trails and settlements
- American Indian occupation or use areas
- Archaeological excavations
- Early missionary activities
- Early Idaho history - mining, homesteading, ranching, forestry, government, industry, agriculture

The Idaho Transportation Department shall establish the Idaho Byways Advisory Committee membership and administrative procedures by which the committee shall operate.

Incorporated communities and their extraterritorial jurisdiction that are located on the byway route shall not be considered as part of the Scenic Byway. Exceptions, such as kiosks, visitor centers, points of interest, etc., within the communities may be included as part of the Idaho Byway designation.



Jerry Whitehead
Board Chairman

Approved by the Board on:

Date: 12/17/15