

MORMON PIONEER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA (MPNHA)

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in partnership with

Southern Utah's Byways & Highway Create Regional Visitor Connections to Adventures in Recreation, Scenic Vistas, Culture and History

PANGUITCH, UT – Visitors will be able to more easily connect to more activities and places as they travel through southwest Utah, as the National and State Scenic Byways and National Heritage Highway 89 unveil their new Southern Utah's regional byways interpretive panel at Panguitch Visitor Center on Saturday, June 9 at 1 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Panguitch Visitor Center located on Hwy. 89 at 800 North Main, where the new 4-foot by-8-foot panel will be unveiled. Deputy chief of staff for Gov. Gary Herbert's office, Michael Mower, and Garfield County Commissioner David Tebbs will be among the guest speakers.

National Scenic Byways: Scenic Byway 12 - All-American Road and Utah's Patchwork Parkway; State Scenic Byways: Zion Scenic Byway, Cedar Breaks National Monument Hwy 148, Markagunt High Plateau Hwy 14; and the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area Hwy. 89 (MPNHA) joined efforts to develop a regional scenic byways touring loops to connect visitors to some of Utah's most scenic, historical and recreational adventures, as well as connecting to three National Parks: Zion, Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef; two national monuments: Cedar Breaks and Grand Staircase Escalante and two state parks: Pioneer Homestead and Kodachrome Basin.



Regional partners meet to view full-sized draft of the panel on the brick wall at the Panguitch Visitor Center. Photo ID (L-R) Dutch Deutschlander, chairman of Utah's Patchwork Parkway, Shannon Eberhard and Bryan Larsen with Cedar Breaks National Monument. Photo courtesy of Utah's Patchwork Parkway.

"These byways and highways have come together to create this regional visitor experience by ignoring byway and county boundaries and focusing on meeting the needs of the visitor who will be exploring our state," said Nancy Dalton, Utah's Patchwork Parkway byway coordinator.

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The interpretive panel loops through the five national and state scenic byways with Heritage Highway 89 tying them together creating a figure-eight looping route where visitors can access a variety of activities including biking, hiking, camping, fishing, ATV trails, horseback riding, wildflower viewing, wild-life viewing, scenic vistas, geological features, dark night sky viewing of stars, museums, historical sites and plenty of cultural and community festivals; as well as connecting to three national parks, two national monuments and two state parks.

“Visitors traveling through the area will recognize they are in a special place and will feel a sense of continuity and recurring themes. They will also recognize connections between residents and the heritage environment where residents create their products, conduct their tours and provide a heritage dining and lodging experience,” said Monte Bona, MPNHA director.

Funding for this project came from a Federal Highways Administration matching grant which leverage the local byways’ 20 percent funds with 80 percent federal FHWA funds. This interpretive panel is the last part of a \$282,695 Interpretive Master Plan project which consisted of developing an interpretive master plan and three kiosk sites with eight interpretive panels along Hwy 143 - Utah’s Patchwork Parkway and an interpretive panel at Panguitch Visitor Center. Part of the Interpretive Master Plan recommended connecting with the other southern Utah national and state scenic byways and Utah’s National Heritage Highway 89.

All five national and state scenic byways were all designated as state scenic byways in 1989 when the State of Utah created its state scenic byway program to promote unique scenic and cultural routes in rural Utah. The Federal Highway Administration created a national scenic byway program in 1992 called America’s Byways which included two levels of national byway and the elite All-American Road designations.

“The panel is a great asset to our scenic byways. We hope our visitors will continue to stop and learn more about the wonderful things they can see and do along the Utah’s Patchwork Parkway, Scenic Byway 12 All-American Road as well as the rest of our area,” said Falyn Owens, Garfield County tourism director.

The event is free. For more information, contact Dalton at 435.463.3735.

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Due to size, 15 additional photos of activities and scenery from the region and a copy of the last draft of the panel are available through our Panguitch Panel Media Kit file on Drop-box. Please e-mail for Nancy Dalton at patchwork@utahspatchworkparkway.com to share this file with you for your use. She will be checking her e-mail throughout the weekend on a regular basis to accommodate your schedule.

Byway/Highway Background Information

Scenic Byway 12 – All-American Road

Along its 124-mile course, Scenic Byway 12 winds through stunning and dramatically varied landscapes—from ponderosa pine and aspen forests to slick rock canyons, from flower-laced mountain meadows to sparsely vegetated shale badlands, from vast wildlands to historic communities. The landscape and communities you’ll pass through along Scenic Byway 12 have incredible stories to tell. Take time to discover them as you go.

Utah’s Patchwork Parkway was designated on 2009 as a National Scenic Byway for its significant historical event where

You're Invited
Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

SATURDAY
JUNE 9, 2018 | 1 PM

Panguitch Visitor Center
800 North Main, Panguitch, Utah

Come Explore Southern Utah's Scenic Byways

Five National & State Scenic Byways and Heritage Hwy 89 have worked together to develop a regional interpretive panel promoting a regional visitor experience of southern Utah.

On June 9th, these organizations will celebrate with an official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony that will encourage visitors to spend an extra day in exploring more of what Utah has to offer.

HOSTED BY

- Scenic Byway 12 – All-American Road
- Utah's Patchwork Parkway – National Scenic Byway
- Zion Scenic Byway – State Scenic Byway
- Cedar Breaks National Monument Hwy. 148 – State Scenic Byway
- Markagunt High Plateau Hwy. 14 – State Scenic Byway
- Utah's National Heritage Highway 89

AMERICA'S BYWAYS®

For additional information or to RSVP, contact:
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early Anglo-American pioneers saved themselves from starvation by using quilts to cross the deep winter snows of the mountain plateaus. National Scenic Byway 143 follows a winding 55-mile course that rises from 6,000 feet on the west slope to elevations over 10,000 feet on the majestic alpine plateau, and gradually descending down to 6,550 feet along the eastern slope. Along with historical sites, Utah's Patchwork Parkway has an abundance of outdoor recreation and scenery to satisfy all ages and abilities.

Zion Scenic Byway traverses 88 miles of incredibly beautiful natural landscapes, which have been shaped over thousands of years, and affords travelers the opportunity to explore four unique communities. The byway follows the Virgin River, weaving through spectacular vistas that include red rock cliffs, buttes, slick rocks, mountains, and a mountain tunnel.

Cedar Breaks State Scenic Byway traverses six miles along the rim of a large natural amphitheater about three miles wide and 2,500 feet deep. Its walls are eroded into delicate carved spires and rock formations while the east plateau provides views of lush meadows and an alpine forest which feature some of the world's best summer wildflowers and fall colors. Designated in 2017 as an International Dark Sky Park®, Cedar Breaks provides stargazers with brilliant night sky viewing of our galaxy. From late October to mid-May, Hwy. 148 is closed to vehicle traffic, but the road is groomed during these months for snowmobile, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing traffic.

Markagunt High Plateau Scenic Byway 14

Starting in Cedar City, State Scenic Byway 14 climbs through red sandstone mountains and forests overlooking lush meadows, towering cliffs, and wide-open vistas. Summiting at 9,900 feet, Byway 14 provides access to forest trails leading to some of the world's oldest Bristlecone Pine trees.

Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area

Utah's National Heritage Highway 89 is Utah's first tourist route dedicated solely to offering guests a quality Western heritage experience served up Utah-style. Winding through the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area, Highway 89 features antique shops, gift stores, bed and breakfast inns, historic sites and buildings, artwork, traditional celebrations, cultural festivals, pageants, local foods, and heritage tours, providing insight into the histories and cultures of these rural communities.