

Overview of the Chuska Mountain Bike Route

Presented by NavajoYES and the Navajo Trails Task Force

In collaboration with the Chuska Mountain-area Chapters,
Navajo Parks & Recreation and Navajo Division of Transportation



Background and Benefits of the Chuska MTB Route

On behalf of the Navajo Nation nonprofit organization NavajoYES and with the support of the Navajo Parks, NDOT and the Office of Navajo President and Vice President, the following initiative is presented for your awareness and potential involvement. The “Chuska Mountain Bike Route” is an exciting and impactful project that will highlight one of the most scenic areas of the Navajo Nation and have multiple benefits.

The “Chuska Mountain Bike Route” as presented will provide significant benefits for local families, Navajo Nation residents, visitors and small businesses, with a primary focus on the promotion of a healthy lifestyle. The Route will:

- Promote personal health of area residents and Navajo Nation residents;
- Encourage community wellness as a whole;
- Foster and strengthen the social fabric and family togetherness;
- Provide opportunities to experience some of the Nation’s most stunning country to local residents and visitors alike;
- Offer a nearby, attractive and safe venue for events and races;
- Benefit local families and small businesses;

The Route: Along the “spine” of the Chuskas on the Chuska MTB Route

NavajoYES and the Navajo Trails Task Force are working with local chapters and the Navajo Nation to develop trails and routes for people to enjoy outdoor recreation as a means of promoting healthy communities through bicycling, hiking, trail running and walking. In the Chuska Mountain region, we are seeking to designate various existing public roads as mountain bike "routes" for active individuals and families who would like to explore some of the Chuska highcountry but may not be familiar with these areas. The designated route will improve the experience for all trail users. The twelve (12) chapters surrounding the range have passed formal resolutions in support of this exciting venture.

Next Steps:

- Our initial step will focus on road N30 from Narbona Pass – north to Cove and south to Camp Asaayi. The designation of this road as “open to bikes” will entail zero new trail or road construction, but will allow bikers to enjoy the mountains in the same manner as vehicles. The roads are already open to the public for driving or biking, but this formal “Chuska MTB Route” designation makes the use of these roads for bikes even more readily available.
- The team will be creating trailheads at locations such as Cove Chapter, Buffalo Pass, Narbona Pass, Camp Asaayi and Mexican Springs. Picnic areas, benches, trail signage and composting toilets will be placed throughout the route. Special focus will be paid to road crossings, such as Buffalo Pass, Narbona Pass and Bowl Canyon Recreation Area. The addition of trailposts, signage and benches along Route 30 will add to a safe and positive experience.
- Local families in the future may opt to develop and offer campsites, bed and breakfast hogans, guide services, bike repairs, and other amenities as they see fit. The Task Force will not be involved in this process and will have no financial stake in any of these developments.

Project Partners

NavajoYES is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, recognized by the Navajo Nation since 1995. One of its key goals is to promote and foster trail efforts across the Navajo Nation. The Trails Task Force was established in 2015 as a partnership among various tribal entities, chapters and organizations interested in developing trails across Dine' Bikeyah. The mission of NavajoYES is to "promote community wellness, lifelong fitness and youth empowerment in communities across the Dine' Nation."

The essential support for this project derives from the local chapters and communities along the route. President Nez and OPVP are very supportive of initiatives that promote healthy living; they believe that this trail initiative is a positive and creative effort in that direction. Council Delegate Amber Crotty and other officials are also in support of the effort. Navajo Parks & Recreation, Division of Transportation and other tribal entities are also backing the Chuska MTB Route project.

We look forward to working with you on this effort. You can reach us at (928) 429-0345 if you have any questions or would like to discuss the topic further.

Contact Info:

Tom Rigenbach
928-429-0345

Melissa Kelly
505-330-0807

mewkelly@hotmail.com

www.navajoyes.org