



# NATIONAL PARKS PROMISE

## Agreement will yield better cycling to and through our national parks

→ ON APRIL 30, just before the start of National Bike Month, Adventure Cycling and the National Park Service entered into a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote more cycling in and around our magnificent national parks. It took more than a year to negotiate this agreement (and thanks to Travel Initiatives Director Ginny Sullivan for

her role in making this happen) but now we have a multi-purpose tool to make some of the most popular destinations in America more velo-friendly. I was reminded of the power and glory of these parks in early April when I traveled with my daughter Samantha to Moab, Utah, for some mountain biking. We rode a lot of spectacular single track, but we also rode some loops on dirt roads and sandy washes, including one that took us into the heart of Arches National Park. It was so awesome to travel this road — hardly used by anybody but us cyclists — right to some of the most beautiful red-rock formations on earth. Wouldn't it be great if more national parks had a mix of trails, roads, and facilities perfectly suited to cycling?

That's what this MOU is all about. (You can read more on our blog. See the April 3, 2013 post at [adventurecycling.org/resources/blog](http://adventurecycling.org/resources/blog)). Here are several things we aim to achieve with our partners under the MOU: 1) Connect national park units via the growing U.S. Bicycle Route



Before the agreement was signed, Jim Sayer rode through various national parks to find out about the experience firsthand.

System; 2) Join with individual park units on educational campaigns such as “share the road” messaging and tunnel-warning systems, or promotion of “cyclist only” days (like the ones offered in Yellowstone National Park in the spring and fall); 3) Facilitate building new infrastructure for cyclists, such as wider shoulders, bike parking, and new trails; 4) Help secure more funding for cycling through federal, state, and local programs; 5) Promote and document bicycle tourism and its many benefits.

We know that bicycle tourists are great for parks, offering low-impact on the environment and high economic impact for concessionaires and gateway communities. Let us know your favorite national parks and the kinds of cycling improvements you'd like to see. With the new MOU in hand, we're ready to get going with our new partners at the National Park Service!

**Jim Sayer**  
Executive Director  
[jsayer@adventurecycling.org](mailto:jsayer@adventurecycling.org)



JUNE 2013  
Volume 40 Number 5  
[www.adventurecycling.org](http://www.adventurecycling.org)

### MISSION

Adventure Cycling Association inspires and empowers people to travel by bicycle.

### AREAS OF FOCUS

- Provide the premier tools and inspiration for people to travel by bicycle.
- Expand and integrate bike travel networks for North America.
- Create the best possible conditions for bicycle travel.

### HOW TO REACH US

To join, change your address, or ask questions about membership, visit us online at [www.adventurecycling.org](http://www.adventurecycling.org) or call (800) 755-2453 or (406) 721-1776.

### EMAIL

[memberships@adventurecycling.org](mailto:memberships@adventurecycling.org)

### SUBSCRIPTION ADDRESS

Adventure Cycling Association  
P.O. Box 8308  
Missoula, MT 59807

### HEADQUARTERS

Adventure Cycling Association  
150 E. Pine St.  
Missoula, MT 59802

### STAFF

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jim Sayer  
[jsayer@adventurecycling.org](mailto:jsayer@adventurecycling.org)

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Sheila Snyder, CPA

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