



New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides

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NMCOG Joins New Mexico Airstrip Network Steering Committee

ALBUQUERQUE – The New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides has formally joined the [New Mexico Pilots Association](#) (NMPA), [Recreational Aviation Foundation](#) (RAF), NMDOT Aviation Division, and other stakeholder organizations in their efforts to form the New Mexico Airstrip Network (NMAN). The NMAN initiative is a project to promote general aviation recreational activities in the state of New Mexico. This collaboration of federal agencies, organizations, and private landowners hopes to increase the availability of public access to rural airstrips (dirt, turf, and paved) in an effort to expand recreational opportunities and promote aviation within the state.

Unlike our neighboring states of UT, AZ, and CO, New Mexico has never capitalized on the aviation assets within our state especially as they relate to hunting, fishing, outfitting, hiking, and camping. The NMAN hopes to change this by mirroring a similar collaborative which took place in Idaho and has been highly successful. Over the past 5 years, the [Idaho Airstrip Network](#) initiative has brought tremendous economic activity and a substantial increase in tourism to the state of Idaho. Like ID, New Mexico offers unparalleled scenic and wilderness opportunities only with better weather, a more moderate climate, and an average of 280 days of sunshine per year.

Currently New Mexico has a wide range of airstrips, both public and private, that offer excellent recreational opportunities but are not being fully utilized. Initial efforts by this collaborative will be to identify and maintain existing airstrips, followed by the development of a plan to add new airstrips to the inventory. The steering committee is currently working on a catalog of ALL of the airstrips in NM, both currently utilized and those long ago forgotten. NMCOG is requesting your help in completing this process. Outfitters, guides, and private landowners are often the primary users of rural airstrips. Please contact NMPA representative Ron Keller at (505) 681-5982 or by email at radarpapa182@yahoo.com if you know of any rural airstrips that should added to the NMAN comprehensive database.

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