Utah’s Night Skies
Preserving a Legacy
PANELISTS

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OUTLINE

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“This symbol, composed of a hive of stars, transposes our beehive symbol to a new and grand level as we enter our second century as a group of people living in a place where we can still see, with our own eyes, the beautiful and dim features of the starry universe.” - House Bill 140, 1996
Utah is home to some of the darkest skies in the nation and is a national leader in night sky protection and preservation.

The world atlas of zenith artificial night sky brightness is modeled with VIIRS OBN data and calibrated with more than 55,000 observations.


Map created by Aubrey Larsen, Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative Coordinator epdarkskies.org darkskyooperative@gmail.com
“When government officials, business leaders, and citizens come together to build communities that enrich people's lives, that's planning.” - APA
Protecting night skies enriches lives.
Coming together

PEOPLE

POLICIES

PLACES
International Dark Sky Places in Utah

The Dark Sky Places Program was started in 2001 by the IDA to encourage parks and communities around the world to preserve and protect dark skies through responsible lighting policies and education. The International Dark Sky Places Program offers five types of certifications:

1. Communities
2. Parks
3. Sanctuaries
4. Reserves
5. Development of Distinction
Dark Sky Reserves

International Dark Sky Reserves consist of a dark “core” zone surrounded by a populated periphery where lighting is appropriately managed to protect the darkness of the core.

1. CORE REQUIREMENTS:
   a. Visibility of the Milky Way to the unaided eye
   b. No nearby artificial light sources yielding significant glare (excessive brightness that causes visual discomfort).
   c. Any light domes present inside the core are dim, restricted in extent, and close to the horizon.
   d. Sky Quality Meter (SQM) readings of 21.2 magnitudes an arcsecond (mpsas) or higher

2. BUFFER REQUIREMENTS
   a. The buffer region does not have a minimum sky quality requirement.
The Southeastern Utah Night Sky Reserve

A grassroots initiative to celebrate Southern Utah's unique rural character and landscapes by preserving the region’s heritage of starry night skies for present and future generations.
The Region
“The work that was done at Arches National Park was a team effort including National Park Service employees, the Friends of Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, and the City of Moab and Grand County. It was a true team effort.”

- Kate Cannon, Southeast Utah Group Superintendent
A Few Resources

CDO/ Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative: cpdarkskies.org
- Dark Sky Planning: Guidance & Best Practices
- Dark Sky Assessment Guide: Resources & Evaluation Methods

International Dark Sky Association: darksky.org
- Dark Sky Reserves

Google Site for the SEUT Reserve: nightskyland.com