



Group Introductions

April 5: Protecting the Night Sky: Who we are, what we do, and why it matters

Instructions: Start typing your answers to any of the following questions below the line

- What is your name?
- Where are you from?
- What are your organizational affiliations?
- Some dark sky work are you involved with?
- What motivates you to do this work?

Wayne Washer

Eagle Mountain, UT

IDA-UT working on the light & Ordinance Committee

UT Valley Astronomy Club - Board Member

SLC Astronomical Society

I am interested in the dark skies for nighttime observation and to assist with migratory preservation for our avian community

Cassidy Jones

Salt Lake City, UT

National Parks Conservation Association, Southwest Region

I am former National Park Service employee, and I managed dark sky programs at Timpanogos Cave NM.

I previously served on the IDA Utah board on the legislative and outreach committees. I have worked on dark sky advocacy issues like electronic billboards as well as dark sky place designations and astrotourism promotion.

Dark skies brings along so many folks who would otherwise not be found in traditional conservation spaces. Plus, dark night skies are good for people and creatures and a valuable cultural asset.

Janet Muir

Eden, UT; London, UK

CPDSC Planning

BRDSC

Early dark sky work at University of Utah

Participated in many IDSP accreditations throughout the West

The poetry of the stars

Sonya Popelka

Dinosaur National Monument

Utah and Colorado

Dark Sky Park since 2019

Interpretive Operations Supervisor and DINO Night Sky Coordinator

Motivated by the hopefulness of being able to reverse the wrongs and celebrate the wins.

Gina Pearson

Ft. Collins and Loveland, CO

Environmental Protection Specialist and Education/Communications Coordinator, National Park Service, Natural Sounds and Night Skies Program

Technical Rep for the partnership with the CPDSC

Protecting and restoring the night sky is critical to our health, well-being, and protection of natural, cultural resources, and wilderness and economic/tourism values, as well as visitor experience.

Involved in many projects, one of which is updating entire [Night Skies Website](#). Goal end of 2023.

Julie McGrew

(jamgrew@blm.gov)

Grand Junction, CO

Chief Landscape Architect

Division of Recreation and Visitor Services

BLM National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships

Dark sky is increasing in interest and is coming up as an issue in public scoping for land use planning and for proposed projects and activities on BLM-administered land. Some of the darkest places in the western U.S. are often associated with BLM land. The BLM currently does not have a national dark sky program or dark sky policy. I am looking forward to working with and learning from this group, it may help inform how we move forward with development of guidance and/or policy.

Jodi Geroux

Emigration Canyon, Salt Lake City, UT

Organizational affiliations: Emigration Canyon Metro Township Planning Commissioner; FFKR Architects

Dark Sky work: In process of co-authoring a Dark Sky Ordinance for Emigration Canyon Metro Township

Motivation: Preserving view of the night sky; minimizing negative effects of light pollution on wildlife, flora, etc.

Heidi Hoven

Avian ecologist and conservation biologist with Audubon Rockies, a regional office of National Audubon, at Gillmor Sanctuary on the South Shore of Great Salt Lake. I'm also an IDA Utah Chapter board member and Co-Chair of the lighting ordinance committee. I love working with the community towards protecting the night sky for migrating birds that come through Utah by the ***hundreds of millions during the night*** and need safe passage.

Sarah Burak

Bluff, Utah

Town of Bluff, Bears Ears Partnership Education Program Director

Dark Sky Ordinances for Town of Bluff via Planning and Zoning Commission, International Dark Sky
Community designation for Bluff, Dark sky and astronomy education
Love of the night sky and living in a place where we can see the Milky Way

Richard Tenney

Lindon, Utah

IDA Utah board member; ordinance and lighting committee

President, Utah Valley Astronomy Club

Working with Provo City Council on improving dark sky friendly lighting ordinances

To quote the dwarves in the Hobbit: “We like the dark! Dark for dark business!” 😊

retenney@yahoo.com

Jill Blumenthal

Mesa Verde National Park (a Dark Sky Park since 2020)

Anil Seth

Salt Lake City, UT

Professor of Physics & Astronomy University of Utah, IDA Utah board member, CPDSC

Dark sky work: helped to set up and now teach in the Minor in Dark Sky Studies, run a yearly summer astro outreach internship at Bryce NP and helped start new dark sky internship with Capitol Reef NP and the Entrada Institute.

Aaron Watson

Paonia, CO

DarkSky Colorado - Chapter Chair

Dark Skies Paonia - Co-founder

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Pollution Prevention Advisory Board

Amateur astronomer, nightscape photographer, [scotobiotic](https://scotobiotic.com)

Kalen Jones

Moab, UT

City Council Member, Architect

Member of diverse stakeholder group working to promote the benefits of, and tools to increase, natural darkness. With City and County staff developed Moab’s outdoor lighting code and am working with city staff on further practical improvements, and in anticipation of a Dark Sky Community application.

John Barentine

Tucson, AZ

Dark Sky Consulting, LLC

I am an astronomer by training who has worked in light pollution research and advocacy for the past decade.

Kate Magargal

Salt Lake City, UT

I am originally from SE Pennsylvania, but I’ve been lucky to live in many rural (and dark) places throughout the 4-corners states.

Dark sky work: University of Utah Minor in Dark Sky Studies (also [SPARC Environmental Justice lab](https://sparcenvironmentaljustice.org) and Honors College). I’m engaged with numerous educational and community engaged projects with

students. The thing that motivates me in this work is that it brings people together and it is tractable - we face so many overwhelming challenges, but I think getting a handle on ALAN is both easy to understand and achievable.

Libby Schaaf

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area/Rainbow Bridge National Monument
Program Manager for Interpretation, Education and Partnerships
Rainbow Bridge is a Dark Sky Sanctuary, a unique topic about which we educate visitors

Michelle Brown

Taylorsville, UT
Department of Government Operations - State of Utah
Coordinator of Resource Stewardship for the State - implement air quality best practices across state government. Assist the Utah Office of Energy Development in their Dark Skies Efforts, tying the link between poor air quality and the enjoyment of the Dark Skies

Rich Csenge

Kanab, UT
Stellar Vista Observatory, non-profit in Kanab, Utah, providing opportunities to appreciate and understand what can be seen in southern Utah's starry skies. Have enacted a night sky lighting ordinance for Kanab. Aim to build and operate an observatory for public enjoyment. Publish weekly sky reports, provide star parties for the public, offer telescopes on loan for free to residents and visitors. Working to preserve natural darkness through our programs and outreach.

Cecily Light

Salt Lake City, UT
IDA UT on Outreach Committee, Retired Army Officer, Retired Nurse Practitioner. Public Health specialty. Glare hurts me. I am working with SLC enforcement on neighborhood lighting.

Don Davis

Flagstaff, AZ
VP Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition, former IDA Director, Tucson. Pima County Outdoor Lighting Code Committee, Co-founder, Planetary Science Institute.

Lisa Stoner

Logan, UT
Coordinator, Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative (CPDSC)
Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism at Utah State University
My role is to connect people to the night sky by coordinating meetings like these, encourage people to explore the wonder of the night sky, and increase awareness about the importance of the dark sky resource. We are preparing for the release and distribution of the "Dark Sky Passport" to share with visitors at National Parks, State Parks, and Planetariums/Public Observatories in Utah, a project funded through a USU-Extension grant intended to excite youth and their families to explore the night and enjoy the many fabulous dark sky places throughout Utah and the Colorado Plateau.

Patrick Sommer

Delegate, International Dark-Sky Association
Live in Fargo, North Dakota

While I reside outside of the CPDSC region, your efforts are inspirational and provide a template for others to build on in the work to preserve and restore darkness to our environment. I am incorporating info on CPDSC into my presentations to demonstrate what could be in our area, just without the mountains!

Autumn Gillard

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