

Annual IDA Dark Sky Place Report

Place Name: Copper Breaks State Park

Date of Designation: 2014

General

- *Current information for the site IDA contact(s):* Edwin Quintero, Park Superintendent
- *Does the site currently have a Provisional status? If so, what work has been done in the past year to resolve concerns that resulted in the Provisional designation?* No the park does not have a provisional status.

Parks/Reserves:

- *Does the site plan to apply for a tier status upgrade in the future? If so, what work has been done in the past year furthering the application?* Copper Breaks State Park currently does not plan to apply for a tier status upgrade.
- *Estimate number of site visitors in the last year. Of those, how many participated in dark-skies programming?* Estimated number of site visitors for Copper Breaks State Park FY17 was approximately 29,000 visitors. A total of 480 visitors participated in our star-walk program.

Lighting

Parks/Reserves:

- *Were any new lighting projects completed this year? If so, describe.* The addition of light glare busters were installed at the Copper Breaks State Park headquarters fee collection station.
- *Is any lighting within the Park/Reserve non-compliant with the LMP (as permitted at the time of IDA designation)? If so, what is the plan to bring the remainder into compliance within the allowed window of time?* Copper Breaks State Park is currently at 95% compliant.
- *Was any new territory added to the Park/Reserve? If so, does any lighting on it comply with the LMP? If lighting on new territory doesn't comply, is there a plan to bring it into compliance?* No additional territory was added to Copper Breaks State Park.

Communities:

- *Were any changes made to local/municipal outdoor lighting policy in the past year? If so, describe and include text of any code language added or changed.* No current changes were made to the local/municipal outdoor lighting policy near Copper Breaks State Park.

- *Were there any new municipal lighting installations (or similar, large-scale installations on commercial property) built in the last year to show as examples built to your dark sky-friendly code? There were no new municipal lighting installations build within the year near Copper Breaks State Park.*

Sky Quality

- *Were sky quality data taken in the past year? If possible, include a table or figure showing the information: Yes there was data taken*
- *Did sky brightness increase over the previous year? Decrease? The sky brightness remained the same at Copper Breaks State Park.*
- *Is a permanently mounted sky monitor installed, or are there plans to install one? Yes there is a permanently mounted sky monitor at Copper Breaks State Park.*

Conservation and Research (Parks/Reserves)

- *Any ongoing conservation and/or research programs at the site? If so, who runs them, and what are the goals? There is no ongoing conservation programs or research conducted at Copper Breaks State Park*
- *Are there any new research results to report? Have any been published this year? No there is currently no research being conducted at Copper Breaks State Park*

Funding

- *Currently administering any grants related to dark-skies programming? If so, describe. There is currently no grants being administered related to dark-skies programming at Copper Breaks State Park*
- *Were any new grants won this year? There was no grants won for the FY2017 at Copper Breaks State Park*
- *Are there plans to apply for any future grants? Currently there is no plans for future grants*

Arts and Culture

- *Is any programming ongoing or planned blending the arts/culture with dark skies? If so, describe: The development of an interpretive/educational program blending both the native American arts/culture with the dark skies is currently in the planning stages for development at Copper Breaks State Park*

Outreach

- *Were any new outreach programs started this year?* Copper Breaks State Park organized outreach events with local civic groups, Scout groups and local high schools
- *If so, are they complete or ongoing?* The Star-walk program is offered 7 months out of the year, is ongoing at Copper Breaks State Park. The next upcoming 2018 tentative Star-Walk schedule will be as follow: April 14, May 12, June 9, July 7, August 11, Sept 1, and October 6.
- *Are statistics available (e.g., how many visitors served, donations, etc.)?* No available statistics

Community and Media Relations

Any new media coverage you would like us to know about? May include e.g., PDFs as attachments: Copper Breaks State Park announces our Star-Walk event lineup via local Newspapers: **The Red River Sun** (Childress), **The Banner** (Seymour) **Foard County News** (Crowell), **Caprock Courier** (Matador, Paducah, Guthrie, Silverton), **Clarendon Enterprise** (Clarendon), **Quanah Tribune**, **Vernon Record**, **Times Record News** (Wichita Falls), **The Knox County Courier** (Knox City area). Radio Stations: Memphis, Childress, Wichita Falls, Haskell, Vernon, Seymour. Chambers of Commerce: Quanah, Childress, Vernon

Any engagement with local governments, community organizations, or private landowners in the past year to report? Copper Breaks State Park has successfully engaged with some neighboring land owners on reducing light pollution.



NEWS

Copper Breaks State Park, 777 Park Road 61, Quanah, Texas 79252
940-839-4331 Fax 940-839-4332

News Release

Media Contact: Wendell Barberee

4-1-17

STARWALK AT COPPER BREAKS STATE PARK

Quanah, Texas — First Starwalk for 2017 will begin at 8:00 PM on April 22, 2017 at Copper Breaks State Park in the Big Pond camping area.

Volunteer Terry Paridon states “the Starwalk will focus upon Native American Astronomy and its emphasis upon the lives of the first American Starwatchers. The significance of the night sky for other cultures will be discussed also.” Immediately after the presentation, individuals will have an opportunity to observe through a telescope various astronomical objects, including galaxies, star clusters, and nebulae. As the night progresses, one planet, Jupiter, will be favorably situated for observing through a telescope. In order to insure that each individual has an opportunity to view astronomical objects of interest, the number of objects that will be viewed through the telescope will depend upon the number of individuals in attendance, and thus the amount of time that can be dedicated to each object.

Other Starwalk dates for 2017 are May 27, June 24, July 22, August 12, September 16, and October 21.

\$2 entrance fees apply for ages 13 and over. Some chairs are available, but visitors are encouraged to bring a chair. This event is held outdoors so visitors are encouraged to plan accordingly.

For more information on this event, or other Copper Breaks events or facilities, contact the park daily during regular business hours at 940-839-4331. Copper Breaks State Park is located thirteen miles south of Quanah and eight miles north of Crowell on State Highway 6.