

2017 IDA Annual Report

Flagstaff Area National Monuments

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General

In calendar year 2016, the Flagstaff Area National Monuments (Sunset Crater Volcano, Walnut Canyon and Wupatki National Monuments, collectively known as FLAG) drew 557,000 visitors to the three sites.

Since designation as an International Dark Sky Park the Flagstaff Area National Monuments (FLAG) has installed or modified signs to identify our designation:





Lighting

When FLAG submitted their application to become an International Dark Sky Park there were ten non-compliant lighting fixtures. In the year plus elapsed since our designation, the final ten light fixtures were replaced. Now there are zero non-compliant lights at FLAG. No new lights were added to FLAG this past year. Here is an example of the fixtures replaced, before and after at WACA:



Sky Quality Data

Three sites within FLAG were used for collecting data periodically throughout the year. These three sites correspond directly to the sites used by the Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division of the National Park Service whose data were used in the original application for FLAG.

Site:	Date:	SQM:	Conditions	Collected by:
WACA End of Rim Trail	1/12/2016	21.72	Very cold, clear skies	CRWaters
SUCR Lava Flow Parking Lot	1/12/2016	21.75	Very cold, clear skies	CRWaters
WUPA Wukoki Parking Lot	1/12/2016	21.84	Very cold, clear skies	CRWaters
WACA End of Rim Trail	5/11/2016	21.55	Slight wind, partly cloudy	CRWaters
SUCR Lava Flow Parking Lot	5/11/2016	21.65	Slight wind, partly cloudy	CRWaters
WUPA Wukoki Parking Lot	5/11/2016	21.79	Slight wind, clear	CRWaters
WACA End of Rim Trail	9/21/2016	21.63	Warm and clear	CRWaters
SUCR Lava Flow Parking Lot	9/21/2016	21.77	Warm and clear	CRWaters
WUPA Wukoki Parking Lot	9/21/2016	21.82	Warm and clear	CRWaters
WACA End of Rim Trail	1/24/2017	20.42	Cold, clear between snow storms	CRWaters
SUCR Lava Flow Parking Lot	1/24/2017	21.09	Cold, clear between snow storms	CRWaters
WUPA Wukoki Parking Lot	1/24/2017	21.63	Cold, clear	CRWaters
WACA End of Rim Trail	3/28/2017	21.04	Partly cloudy	CRWaters
SUCR Lava Flow Parking Lot	3/28/2017	20.62	Partly cloudy	CRWaters
WUPA Wukoki Parking Lot	3/28/2017	21.54	Partly cloudy	CRWaters

Visitor Programs and Outreach

FLAG hosted seven programs that were attended by 711 park visitors. These events were a combination of star parties and solar viewing. The Verde Valley Astronomy Club co-hosted many of these events.

Eighteen public programs were held outside the boundary of FLAG, but often quite close were attended by 4,115 individuals. These programs ranged in size and location from a City of Flagstaff park with over a thousand in attendance to a star party held on the Hopi Mesa attended by a few dozen school children. The star party on Hopi Mesa was a new outreach event organized by Lowell Observatory that FLAG participated in.