

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve

1266 Craters Loop Rd
Arco ID, 83213

General Outreach and Statistics:

- Astronomy Program Contacts:
 - Ted Stout, Chief of Interpretation – (208)527-1330, ted_stout@nps.gov
 - Kera A. Judy, Interpretive Ranger – (208)527-1332, kera_judy@nps.gov
- Total Site Visits: In 2017, the park accommodated just under 300,000 Visitors, an increase of 10.5% over 2016. So far in 2018, our monthly statistics are reporting a further increase of 16 percent over 2017's numbers.
- Craters of the Moon (CRMO) hosted a trial-run of astronomy programs in 2018, featuring these programs on the weekends in the month of July for a total of 8 programs. Each of these programs saw an average attendance of 35 visitors.
- The park also initiated full moon hikes in the months of July, August and September, each program capping off attendance at 20 visitors.
- In order to facilitate these new programs, a seasonal GS-07 seasonal Astronomy Ranger position was filled. This ranger was tasked with the successful creation and delivery of astronomy programs; this endeavor also included ordering of supplies, creating job hazard analyses, and determining program location logistics. The ranger also attended a park funded astronomy training in Fort Davis, TX., at the McDonald Observatory.
- In association with the Idaho Falls Astronomical Society, a star party was held on the nights of June 8th and 9th. Over 100 visitors attended this event.

Lighting

- 63 out of 65 different lighting fixtures in the park are compliant with IDA standards. The other two fixtures exist for staff safety, have motion detectors, and are used very infrequently.
- Local Community: An endeavor needs to be made to reach out to Arco City Council (Arco is our closest town, 18 mi. east of CRMO) to discuss the augmentation of their current city lighting scheme. The majority of light pollution visible at CRMO is sourced in Arco; the city recently switched to blue-white- LED street lamps, which is likely to be contributing more light pollution than when CRMO gained IDA certification last year. When funding allows for another astronomy ranger to lead the park's astronomy program next year, this is an issue that will need to be addressed.

Sky Quality

- No dark sky quality measurements were taken in 2017. In 2016, our average SQM reading reached 21.42, with the darkest reading reaching 21.52. The park is currently in the process of purchasing an SQM, and will have new 2018 readings by October.

Conservation and Research (Parks/Reserves)

- There are currently no academic research projects occurring in the park.

Funding

- The park plans to continue funding a seasonal astronomy ranger position into FY 2019.

Arts and Culture

- The division of Interpretation and Education is currently planning to focus the 2019 Craters of the Moon Artist in the Parks candidacy towards a dark sky oriented theme.

Community and Media Relations

- In July, Craters of the Moon was paid a visit by the American Solar Car Challenge, a group of academic institutions “racing” their solar cars along the path of the Oregon Trail. The cars made quite a splash, and helped facilitate discussions with the public about the feasibility of solar innovations. This event made its way into local and statewide news, an example of which can be found at:

<https://www.localnews8.com/news/kifi-top-story/american-solar-challenge-makes-its-way-into-arco/770471962>

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is honored to have been selected to join the ranks of all the wonderful places associated with the International Dark Sky Association. We look forward to a continued partnership with the IDA and many more successful years of night sky viewing to come!