SUMMARY

In 2018 the Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative is excited to announce a new coordinator and partner in support of its municipal engagement, local support, education, and outreach goals. Through an agreement between the Consortium for Dark Sky Studies and the Utah Workforce Services – Community Development Office, the cooperative has gained a tremendous ally and partner toward becoming a self-sustaining entity.

Led by new coordinator Aubrey Larsen, the cooperative is creating powerful new tools to support dark sky cooperatives, community leaders, and related planning efforts. These tools include a dark sky assessment guide, a planning and best practices guidance document for local leaders, a lighting inventory guide, an interactive GIS-based dark sky dashboard, and an associated dark sky tracker spreadsheet. With the support of a steering committee, the Cooperative is working toward possible interstate agreements to leverage tools created by Aubrey and empower various state and community partners. Under Aubrey’s leadership, the cooperative is furthering its reputation and empowering dark sky advocates in many gateway communities. Including the highest concentration of dark sky parks and communities within the Intermountain West Region and the world, the Colorado Plateau continues to lead the way.
Launched in 2012 as part of the National Park Service’s Call to Action #27, The Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative is a voluntary initiative to link communities, tribes, businesses, state agencies, federal agencies, and citizens in a collaborative effort to:

1. Celebrate the view of the cosmos
2. Minimize the impact of outdoor lighting
3. Protect natural nighttime skies and restore natural darkness in areas where it has been degraded

The Dark Sky Cooperative encourages community-based landscape-scale approaches to dark sky conservation and recognizes that civic engagement is the foundation for a shared stewardship of our starry sky heritage. We invite agencies, business, communities and individuals to become dedicated to the conservation of quality night skies by adopting policy, promoting and participating in actions and conducting educational outreach in support of night sky visibility and natural nocturnal environments for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

A COMPREHENSIVE TIMELINE OF DARK SKY ACTIVITY IN UTAH 1969-2018

Timeline created by Monica Stamm
OBJECTIVES

In support of the Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative’s mission and goals, five main objectives were established and are used to classify our activities and projects. Each month a CPDSC Stakeholder Report is released to inform key stakeholders about these activities and solicit feedback and input.

DARK SKY NETWORK

Establish a regional “dark-sky network” between communities, tribes, businesses, state agencies, federal agencies, and citizens in order to coordinate efforts, communicate effectively, share resources and information, and provide mutual support.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Assist in the creation, promotion, facilitation, and improvement of the public’s understanding of the significant economic, human health, ecological, and safety benefits of preserving dark skies, as well as the cultural and heritage implications of restoring our citizens’ access to starry nights.

TOOLS. GUIDES & RESOURCES

Support, create, and share actionable dark sky tools, guides, and resources.

TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Facilitate trainings and provide technical assistance, where feasible, to build the capacity of communities to build and enact their own dark-sky preserving plans.

PROMOTION & MARKETING

Help to promote night sky-related activities and provide community support for astronomy events.

Between the months of June and December of 2018, the largest percentage of activities were in support of dark sky network activities whereas the smallest percentage of activities were in support of promotion and marketing. For a summary of activities by objective, see 2019 goals & priorities.
2018 TRANSITIONS

Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative Coordinator Bettymaya Foott transitioned to a new position with the International Dark Sky Association in June of 2018 and an agreement between the University of Utah and the Utah Community Development Office was established to empower Community Development Specialist, Aubrey Larsen, to integrate the role of Cooperative Coordinator with her State of Utah responsibilities. At the end of December 2018 Nick Kiahtipes was hired as an intern by the Utah Community Development Office to assist the Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative Coordinator and expand capacity.

NEW IN 2018

CPDSC FLYER UPDATE
- Updated and printed new CPDSC informational flyer.

MONTHLY CPDSC NEWSLETTER
- To link communities, tribes, businesses, state agencies, federal agencies, and citizens in a collaborative effort to celebrate the view of the cosmos, minimize the impact of outdoor lighting, and restore natural darkness to areas where it has been degraded.

MONTHLY GUEST SPOTLIGHTS
- An effort to recognize the incredible people involved in dark sky conservation throughout the Colorado Plateau and beyond featuring a short article on a different individual or group of individuals each month in the newsletter.

MONTHLY CPDSC STAKEHOLDER REPORT
- To unite and inform key stakeholder throughout the Colorado Plateau.

ACTIVITIES REPORT
- A quick glance at monthly activities and ongoing projects classified by objective types.

DARK SKY TRACKER
- A spreadsheet listing the communities and parks throughout the Colorado Plateau and includes notes about ongoing dark sky related efforts. Stakeholders are encouraged to add information and updates.

DARK SKY DASHBOARD
- A geographic visualization of the status of dark sky conservation efforts throughout the Colorado Plateau populated with data from the dark sky tracker spreadsheet.

TOOLS & RESOURCES

DARK SKY ASSESSMENT GUIDE
- A guide for understanding and conducting a dark sky assessment tailored towards rural communities.

DARK SKY PLANNING GUIDE
- An introduction to dark sky planning and benefits for local leaders.

DARK SKY PLANNING STORY MAP SERIES
- A Story Map series that compliments the dark sky planning guide and highlights dark sky conservation efforts throughout Utah.

LIGHTING CODE BASICS BRIEF
- A brief description of lighting code, what makes lighting code effective, and a generic lighting ordinance template.

INTERNATIONAL USE OF DARK SKY RESOURCES
- A community on the south island of New Zealand posted the Dark Sky Assessment Guide on their noticeboard.

EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR DARK SKY PLANNING GUIDE
- Awarded by Utah Department of Workforce Services

UTAH OUTDOOR RECREATION CONFERENCE
- Tabled at the conference and shared resources and information with attendees.
- Presented on dark sky with Utah State Parks

IDA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
- Presented on a panel representing Utah’s dark sky conservation efforts.
- Prepared a poster presentation about the physical & cultural geography of the Colorado Plateau.

ALAN CONFERENCE
- Networked with dark sky leaders from around the world.
- Shared tools and resources with other attendees.
2019 GOALS & PRIORITIES

For 2019 the Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative has established the following goals and priorities based on 2018 outcomes, goals established by past Coordinators, and feedback from key stakeholders and liaison Randy Stanley.

2019 ACTIVITY GOALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES BY OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>TOTALS 2018</th>
<th>GOALS 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DARK SKY NETWORK</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTREACH &amp; EDUCATION</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOOLS, GUIDES &amp; RESOURCES</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAINING &amp; TECH. ASSISTANCE</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROMOTION &amp; MARKETING</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 PRIORIES

1. ESTABLISH PERMANENT FUNDING

Current MOU status:
- The University of Utah shall reimburse DWS a total of $10,423 in four quarterly payments of $2,605.75
- MOU terminates April 30, 2019

2. FORMALIZE STEERING COMMITTEE

Proposed Steering Committee Members:
- Randy Stanely
- Karen Trevino
- Bob Meadows
- Stephen Goldsmith
- Janet Muir
- John Barentine
- Bettymaya Foott
- Keith Heaton

3. INTERSTATE PARTNERSHIPS & SUPPORT

Interstate agreements to leverage tools and resources
- Have discussed with New Mexico Tourism & State Parks Offices

4. HOST CPDSC STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

TBD/ Fall 2019
- Replicate and build upon past workshop success

5. COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ASSISTANCE PLAN

Develop action plan for providing technical assistance

6. LIGHTING CODE TOOLBOX

Toolbox with resources for adopting lighting code

7. TOWN BEAUTIFICATION TOOLBOX

A suite of tools surrounding town beautification topics

8. PUT TO USE NASA DEVELOP TEAM DATA