



Idaho Dark Sky Alliance
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NEWS RELEASE

July 12, 2023

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Light Pollution Research Continues in the Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve

KETCHUM, ID – We are so fortunate to live under the amazing night sky in central Idaho. It is also fortunate that the Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve (CIDSr), the first dark sky reserve in the U.S., has been the focus of ongoing research in light pollution.

One of the ongoing research projects within the reserve is a collaboration with Dr. Travis Longcore and the Institute of Environmental Studies program at UCLA. The program was initiated by Dr Steve Pauley (Dr Dark!) in 2021, and has expanded through a partnership with Boise State University, CIDSr, and NASA's Science Activation program.

UCLA researchers are back in Idaho for a third year of collecting and analyzing ground-based measurements of light pollution at designated sites within the CIDSr. These measurements will be combined with remote analyses to establish a baseline dataset to track light pollution trends in the reserve. Night sky measurements were gathered and analyzed in 2021 and 2022 and similar measurements will be gathered this summer, using the Sky Quality Camera hardware and software system to measure whole-sky brightness and attribute light pollution sources.

As part of the project there will be a presentation on **Tuesday July 18 at 10:00 AM at Ketchum City Hall** (191 5th St, Ketchum). It will also be available via [Zoom](#). The researchers will discuss the impacts of light pollution, describe the process for taking ground measurements using a Sky Quality Meter and Sky Quality Camera, and explain how the results are analyzed. They will also provide an overview of how these tools are utilized to monitor light pollution.

In a related effort, the researchers will also provide a more detailed and hands-on demonstration of the camera and light meters for interested volunteers on at 9:00 PM Friday July 14 and Monday July 17 at Ketchum Town Square. If you would like to learn more about or sign up to help with this citizen science project, please send a text to 208-352-3153 or email idahodarksky@gmail.com.

The widespread implementation of artificial light has left few areas devoid of light pollution. This has led to the designation of regions with exceptionally unpolluted night skies such as the Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve (CIDSr). However, additional inappropriate lighting within the reserve and sky glow from surrounding cities poses a potential threat to its status. This is of particular concern with the recent urban lighting transition to white LEDs, which emit blue light that is undetected by satellite imagery, and therefore cannot currently be monitored using readily available remote sensing data. The sky quality monitoring project in the reserve will add to similar efforts in the U.S. and throughout the world to monitor the impacts of light pollution.

(Meeting Zoom link:

<https://ketchumidaho-org.zoom.us/j/82414491826?pwd=Q1lueGNIU1VRUVITbTVZYjJhdGp6dz09>)