

INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION

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TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE NIGHTTIME ENVIRONMENT AND OUR HERITAGE OF DARK  
SKIES THROUGH QUALITY OUTDOOR LIGHTING



International Dark-Sky Association  
Dark Sky Reserve Program Guidelines  
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## DEFINITION OF AN IDA DARK SKY RESERVE

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An IDA Dark Sky Reserve (DSR) is a public or private land of substantial size (of 700 km<sup>2</sup>, or about 173,000 acres) possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment and that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment.

The DSR consists of two regions: (1) a “core” area meeting the minimum criteria for sky quality and natural darkness, and (2) a “peripheral” or “buffer” area that supports dark sky values in the core and while receiving similar benefits. The DSR is formed through a partnership of landowners and/or administrators that recognize the value of natural nightscapes through regulations, formal agreements, and long term planning. The core and the peripheral zone together are referred to as the “Reserve” and “DSR” in this document.

## GOALS OF DARK SKY RESERVE CREATION

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- To identify and honor public or private lands and their surrounding communities for exceptional commitment to and success in implementing the ideals of dark sky preservation;
- To promote eco- and astro-tourism;
- To promote protection of nocturnal habitats, public enjoyment of the night sky and its heritage, and areas ideal for professional and/or amateur astronomy;
- To encourage land administrators, surrounding communities and private interests to identify dark skies as a valuable resource in need of proactive protection;
- To provide international recognition for such sites;
- To encourage other sites to become environmental leaders on dark sky issues by communicating the importance of dark skies and by providing an example of what is possible with proper stewardship.

## BENEFITS

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Achieving a DSR designation brings recognition of the efforts made by any public and/or private organizations protecting the dark sky of the identified Reserve area. It will encourage, consolidate, and ensure the sustainability of all actions already deployed in the area; moreover, it will enhance awareness of all residents and visitors of environmental stewardship and responsibility.

Designation as a DSR entitles the core and its surrounding communities to display the IDA Dark Sky Reserve logo in official publications and promotions and retain the use of this logo by other groups within the community when identifying the area itself (i.e. an organization/community can say “located in Grand View Dark Sky Reserve”). A DSR may also choose to identify itself through various phrases stating

the same effect. IDA maintains a Web page identifying and describing all DSRs available on <http://www.darksky.org/>.

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## ELIGIBILITY

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To be eligible for consideration as a DSR, a candidate site must meet all of the following requirements:

- A) The core of the proposed DSR must be a public or a private land protected for scientific, natural, educational, cultural, heritage and/or public enjoyment; **AND**
- B) A core area does not have a minimum area requirement but must provide sufficient area to meet the Dark Sky Places Program’s outreach and public access requirements. The proposed core area boundary may take any shape and may follow logical or natural geographic features. **If the core includes a publicly protected area, it should strive to fully encompass the boundaries of that area.** The core boundaries may not be arbitrarily drawn to omit areas that would increase the difficulty of achieving DSR approval, but should embrace these areas as an opportunity for improvement. If an irregular shape is chosen it must be explained in the text of the application; **AND**
- C) The peripheral area should encompass a minimum of 700 km<sup>2</sup> (270 mi<sup>2</sup> or 173,000 acres) around the core (roughly equivalent to a 15-km/9.3-mile radius) **OR** an area sufficient to mitigate 80% of current and expected future light pollution threats. The actual area of the peripheral, or buffer zone, may be reduced or increased as needed on a case-by-case basis by the Dark Sky Places Committee (DSPC) to ensure future protection of the DSR; **AND**
- D) Regular visitation by the public is essential to meet the goals of the Dark Sky Places Program. The core must provide an opportunity for regular public nighttime access, with or without supervision. A portion of designated land may meet this requirement, or access must be available for a fraction of the length of the night. In some cases, such as when working with areas that protect endangered wildlife, this requirement may be adjusted; **AND**
- E) The core must provide an exceptional dark sky resource, relative to the communities and cities that surround it. Core night sky quality must fit in one of the three tier qualifications (Gold, Silver, Bronze). See the “Sky Quality Tiers” section.

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## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL RESERVES

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- A) A quality comprehensive Lightscape Management Plan (LMP) should be adopted by a sufficient number of communities within the entire DSR (core and periphery) corresponding to at least 80% of population **AND** 80% of designated area of protection. The regulations contained in the LMP should address all private **AND** public owners of communities within the area of protection. Some exceptions may apply but are individually subject to IDA approval.

**The LMP should address all of the following standards:**

- i) New, current, and required retrofit lighting must meet all of the Reserve's LMP requirements. The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada / IDA Guide to Outdoor Lighting (GOL; <http://bit.ly/1NYjY9D>) should be consulted while creating the park's LMP; **AND**
  - ii) Includes a policy for determining whether an area should or should not be lighted, at what times an area should or should not be lighted, and appropriate illumination levels. Standards may be appropriately more restrictive when close to the core and less restrictive when farther from the core; **AND**
  - iii) Fully shielded fixtures are standard throughout the Reserve. Any lighting fixtures above 500 initial lumens are required to use fully shielded fixtures emitting no light at or above the horizontal. When unshielded fixtures are used, impacts to the lightscape must be minimized with the use of timers and/or curfews; **AND**
  - iv) Methods for determining the appropriate type of lamp (color, efficiency, technology) and fixture that should be used for particular tasks and in particular areas with goals to maximize energy efficiency and minimize impact to human vision dark adaptation/recovery time, wildlife, and the nocturnal ecology. The correlated color temperature (CCT) of lamps installed in the Reserve shall not exceed 3000 K, and a CCT of 2000 K or less is recommended to minimize the impact on most wildlife; **AND**
  - v) The LMP should conform to or surpass applicable policy in the appropriate local jurisdiction concerning lighting and dark sky protection as well as other applicable guidance and laws (e.g. environmental leadership programs, agency orders, wilderness act, energy management guidelines).
- B) Evidence of community commitment to dark skies and lightscape management, as shown by at least two-thirds (67%) of existing outdoor lighting fixtures within the core conforming to the LMP (or an alternative fraction approved by the DSPC); **AND**
- C) Lighting Inventory and a plan to bring 90% of outdoor lighting into compliance with the Reserve's LMP within five (5) years of receiving an IDA designation, as well as a written commitment to bring the Sanctuary into 100% compliance within ten (10) years of designation; **AND**
- D) A measurement program must be maintained either by the park, private landowner(s) or another public or private organization (university, research center, IDA chapter, astronomy club, etc.) to follow the evolution of light pollution in the DSR core and assert that the night sky quality does not degrade; **AND**
- E) Communities must have a number of examples of conforming lighting installations proportional to the size of the population they serve, both on roadways **AND** on different private sites (industries, stores, public services, etc.):
- i) Each participating municipality (excluding businesses, residences, and partners without installed lighting) should have completed **at least one** highly visible demonstration project with night sky friendly lighting consisting of at least 10 lighting fixtures for each 5000 residents; **AND/OR**

- ii) Approximately 10% of fixtures within the Reserve (outside of the core) must be retrofitted or brought into compliance with the appropriate regulation or guideline. This percentage does not include fixtures that were compliant upon the initial lighting survey, but rather must show active motivation of the community to make changes through the form of retrofits and/or appropriate physical changes to the current fixtures' form. Such changes may include, but are not limited to, installation of adaptive controls such as timers and dimmers.
- F) Participating communities must have a program, either through education, economic incentives, permitting or regulation, to encourage all new outdoor lighting fixtures to conform to the relevant regulation or guidelines for night sky friendly lighting.
- G) The Reserve's commitment to public education.
  - i) The importance of dark skies/natural darkness and the benefits of good lighting should be part of Reserve interpretation/outreach programs. If the Reserve typically provides interpretive programs, then dark skies must be one of the central themes ("dark skies education" here means not only to astronomy education but also education about wildlife, efficiency, safety, and human health) communicated through on-site interpretation. If interpretive programs are not typically offered, then publications, flyers, press releases, media, or other outreach are appropriate substitutes; **AND**
  - ii) Dedicated dark skies programming must occur at least four times per year; however, more frequent events are preferable. These events may highlight the dark night sky in any appropriate way (e.g. cultural or historic value, importance to wildlife, astronomical or stargazing events, and a portion of the event must include dark sky awareness or preservation specifically including reference to the IDA and what it means to be a DSR).
- H) Acknowledgement of the protected area by government or regulatory agencies situated higher than community level (county/province/etc.) with the perspective that dark skies are an important scientific, natural, cultural, and/or scenic resource value as shown by the inclusion of appropriate language in official documents (politics, protocols, management plans, etc.) for long term planning.
- I) Communities within the DSR will receive a certificate verifying the community as a part of the DSR upon request. Those who wish to erect a sign must address a letter to IDA referring to the community as a part of the DSR and giving specific examples of their engagement (lighting fixture replacement, outreach program, etc.).
- J) Once established, the Reserve must erect and maintain a sign indicating the IDA Dark Sky Reserve designation along a roadway entrance, along a footpath entrance if no roadway exists, or a visitor contact center. Sign must include DSR text and logo. With IDA approval, an alternative wording may be used, such as Dark Sky Wilderness, Night Sky Refuge, or similar. The Reserve may include the awarded tier if desired. Once the sign is erected a picture documenting this sign must be taken and sent to IDA for records along with a description of its location.
- K) A DSR designation is subject to regular review by IDA and possible revocation if minimum requirements are not maintained. More details may be found in the "Reassessment of DSR designation" section.

- L) The Reserve will submit an annual report to IDA by 1 October of each year detailing activities and progress towards fulfilling IDA DSR goals during the previous year. The report serves to document that Reserves continue to meet minimum program requirements, are sustaining partnership, outreach, and interpretive efforts, and are making adequate progress toward at least 90% compliance with LMPs. The report should include dates and brief descriptions of interpretive events, lighting retrofit projects, community outreach, etc. It should also provide information on any new lands acquired since designation and/or the most recent prior report, as well as any potential future sale of land that may result in reassessment of DSR status (see “Sale or Transfer of Land Ownership,” below). Samples of printed materials and press articles should also be included. The annual report should not require a lot of time to produce, as it should be a compilation of information generated during the previous year. A form will be provided to aid in the compilation of these details. Electronic submission of these documents is required in MS Word or PDF format. If the annual report is not sent in a timely fashion, IDA may suspend the IDA DSR’s status until the annual reporting requirements have been met.
- M) Sky Quality Tiers for Core Determination
- i) The sources of light pollution in the DSR core must be estimated through calculations, maps, photographs or any other proper method **AND** clearly identify actual and future threats to the sky quality. A plan must be devised to address these current and future threats.
  - ii) Once the minimum requirements have been met, a DSR is designated by IDA at one of three levels or tiers (Gold, Silver, Bronze) indicating the night sky quality of the core.
  - iii) Gold corresponds to natural, non-polluted or near-natural night skies.
  - iv) Silver corresponds to nighttime environments that have minor impacts from light pollution and other artificial light disturbance, yet still display good quality night skies and has exemplary nighttime lightscapes.
  - v) Bronze corresponds to areas not meeting the requirements of Silver, yet still offering people, plants and animals a respite from an otherwise degraded nocturnal environment.
  - vi) The determination of whether the minimum sky quality standard has been met and what tier will be awarded will be decided by IDA based on submitted information.
  - vii) For a breakdown of requirements for each tier designation, see the table on the next page:

## GOLD, SILVER, AND BRONZE TIER DESIGNATION

Indicator	Gold	Silver	Bronze
<b>Philosophy</b>	Nighttime environments that have negligible to minor impacts from light pollution and other artificial light disturbance, yet still display outstanding quality night skies and have superior nighttime lightscapes.	Nighttime environments that have minor impacts from light pollution and other artificial light disturbance, yet still display good quality night skies and have exemplary nighttime lightscapes.	Areas not meeting the requirements of <i>Silver</i> , yet still offering people, plants and animals a respite from a degraded nocturnal environment and suitable for communicating the issue of light pollution and connecting people with the many aspects of the night sky.
<b>Artificial Light and Skyglow</b>	Typical observer is not distracted by glary light sources. Light domes are only dim and restricted to sky close to horizon.	Point light sources and glary lights do not dominate nighttime scene. Light domes present around horizon but do not stretch to zenith.	Areas with greater artificial light and skyglow than <i>Silver</i> , but where aspects of the natural sky are still visible.
<b>Observable Sky Phenomena</b>	The full array of visible sky phenomena can be viewed—e.g. aurora, airglow, Milky Way, zodiacal light, and faint meteors.	Brighter sky phenomena can be regularly viewed, with fainter ones sometimes visible. Milky Way is visible in summer and winter.	Many sky phenomena cannot be seen. Milky Way is seen when pointed out to the average person, as is the Andromeda Galaxy.
<b>Nocturnal Environment</b>	Area is devoid of obvious lights that can cause wildlife disorientation. Artificial light levels are thought to be below the threshold for plant and animal impact. Ecological processes related to nocturnality are unaltered. No lighting atop towers or buildings within park boundary.	Areas that have minor to moderate ground illumination from artificial skyglow. Lights that may cause disorientation to wildlife are distant. Disruption of ecological processes is minor with no impairment to plants or wildlife.	Areas with greater nocturnal impact than <i>Silver</i> , but where ecosystems are still functional.
<b>Visual Limiting Magnitude</b>	Equal or greater than 6.8 under clear skies and good seeing conditions	6.0 to 6.7 under clear skies and good conditions	5.0-5.9 under clear skies and good seeing conditions
<b>Bortle Sky Class</b>	1-3	3-5	5-6
<b>Unihedron Sky Quality Meter</b>	> 21.75	21.74-21.00	20.99-20.00

## LIGHTING INVENTORY

- A) When there are numerous outdoor lights it is acceptable to group lights by facility or area. Whether the fixtures are fully shielded, are special purpose fixtures under 500 initial lumens, and what the lighting application is should be noted for each fixture or group of fixtures.
- B) The lighting Inventory should also include a plan or stated commitment to bring all outdoor lights into compliance with the Lighting Guidelines.
- C) Daytime photographs or manufacturer diagrams of each fixture type should also accompany the inventory.

A sample table from portion of a Lighting Inventory:

Location	Fixture	Fully-Shielded	Special Purpose <500 lumens	Application	Conformity with LMP
Visitor Center	12 fixtures on 14' pole, 70 W HPS	YES	NO	Parking lot, timer off at 10pm	YES
	2 door lights, 100 W MH	YES	NO	Building egress	YES
	6 bollard (post) lights, 32 W CFL	NO	NO	Walkway	NO – see plan
Historic Cabin	2 carriage style lights at doorways, 40 W incandescent	NO	YES	Historic Preservation, egress	YES
Maintenance Yard	6 wall packs, 250 W MH	NO	NO	Occasional night operations	NO – see plan
	8 Glarebusters, 11 W compact fluorescent	YES	NO	Egress, security	YES

*Lamps of 500 lumens output and less include: 33 watt incandescent and less; 25 watt tungsten (quartz) halogen and less; 8 watt linear fluorescent and less; 10 watt compact fluorescent and less.*

## LIGHTSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN GUIDELINES

The LMP should embody good lighting ethics and recognized best practices such as:

- A) Meet or exceed policies regarding outdoor lighting of the appropriate local jurisdiction.
- B) Only use light when it is needed, where it is needed, and in the appropriate amount for a specific task.
- C) Outdoor lighting fixtures should be fully shielded and make appropriate use of timers and motion sensors.



- i) Lighting of less than 500 initial lumens may be unshielded lights for special purposes, such as historical preservation. The approved special uses should be stated in the LMP. IDA will scrutinize these uses to ensure that Reserve lighting is a suitable example of good lighting for the public and protects the nighttime environment to the maximum practical extent. IDA may request additional descriptions, photographs, or drawings of these lights. These lights are not exempt from the lighting guidelines, and must still be designed to minimize impact to the lightscape.
- D) IDA has collaborated with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada to develop the RASC/IDA Guidelines for Outdoor Lighting (GOL). The principles embodied in these guidelines should be adopted as part of the LMP for the Reserve. If there are provisions of the GOL that are not appropriate for the Reserve, the GOL may be amended or substituted with more suitable guidelines. IDA will review the modifications or substitution and determine on a case-by-case basis if the changes are acceptable for the individual Reserve.

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## **PROVISIONAL STATUS**

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- A) In some cases, a Reserve interested in being designated may lack the resources to make a successful application. If minimum sky quality criteria and appropriate outreach requirements have been met, a Reserve may apply for and be granted Provisional status. Provisional status recognizes the park's ongoing work to become a DSR and is intended to be used as a leverage point to enable the necessary lighting upgrades or retrofits and policy changes.
- B) To be considered for a Provisional status, send a nomination package to support the following needed information:
  - i. Initial sky quality measurements;
  - ii. The minimum quality night sky described under "Eligibility" must be met in order to attain at least a Bronze DSR designation.
  - iii. Documented intent to create and support an DSR;
  - iv. Three partners (municipalities, parks, organizations, etc.) have documented intent to support an DSR;
  - v. An action plan describing how the aspiring Reserve will meet minimum requirements.
- C) Provisional status expires after three (3) years. At any time before the end of its Provisional status, a park may reapply for full status. Material submitted for the removal of Provisional status may be an addendum to the initial application as long as the material includes a current assessment of night sky quality, goals, outreach, and programs listed in the original application.

## GUIDELINES ON DSR PROCESS

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### NOMINATION

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The nomination may be initiated by an IDA qualified nominator who has personally reviewed a park's outdoor lighting and commitment to natural lightscapes, or by a member of the park staff who maintains an IDA membership. An IDA qualified nominator is an IDA member whose nominator status is approved in advance by the IDA Dark Sky Places Program Manager. The nomination may be a joint effort between park administration/ownership and the qualified nominator. Nominators are encouraged to correspond with IDA staff and the park throughout this process—from first consideration of a DSR through the final submission package.

### CORE MANAGEMENT ENDORSEMENT

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An official letter must be sent to IDA supporting the DSR nomination from the core administrator or manager. An official letter of support from the communities/county/province or other jurisdiction to which the lands within the DSR are subject that confirms their long-term engagement and commitment towards the creation of the DSR must also be sent to IDA.

### DSR APPLICATION PROCESS

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#### STEPS FOR APPLICANT

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- A) Initial contact with IDA by phone or email to discuss the process and make recommendations followed by regular contact to consult with IDA staff and to review progress;
- B) A formal contact person is designated and their phone, address and email information is forwarded to IDA staff. Before and after designation, any changes to the designated contact person, or person's contact information, must be communicated to IDA in order to ensure timely communication;
- C) Upon completion, the park sends the application to IDA staff for review of the document. IDA staff confirms that the application is complete and ready for submission. The application must be transmitted electronically to IDA in PDF and/or Microsoft Word format.
- D) Submit in plenty of time for IDA staff to review and prepare your application to make the bi-monthly deadline that you prefer, as found on <http://darksky.org/idsp/reserves/>. Requests to rush applications will **NOT** be accepted; planning ahead is essential if the park wishes to meet a specific deadline.

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### TO BE INCLUDED IN AN DSR SUBMISSION

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- A) Map(s) of the area to be designated clearly indicating the core and periphery, and the communities within the borders.
- B) Letter of nomination from a qualified IDA member nominator.
- C) Letter of nomination support from the core administrator.
- D) Any management documents supporting dark skies and/or natural lightscapes as a valued resource.
- E) Documentation of sky quality, light pollution measures, satellite pictures, maps, photographs, or other evidence that demonstrates the noteworthiness of the resource. Measurements of night sky brightness using an approved night sky brightness meter, such as the Unihedron Sky Quality Meter or the Dark Sky Meter iPhone app, showing at least 12 locations within the Reserve. Measurements should document the approximate darkest and brightest areas of the Reserve. Data included in the application must contain an updated survey of the Reserve completed no more than two years before the application's submission along with any other relevant surveys. Learn more about creating a night sky quality survey on IDA's website <http://darksky.org/idsp/sky-quality-survey/>.
- F) Lightscape Management Plan
- G) Documentation signed by core administrator showing a Lighting Inventory of the core and a plan to bring 90% of outdoor lighting into compliance with the Reserve's LMP within five years; as well as a signed commitment to bring the Reserve into 100% compliance within ten (10) years.
- H) Municipality, community, and core agency or departmental policy on outdoor lighting and dark sky protection as well as the core's LMP.
- I) Any documentation of the importance of the core. (e.g. site historical research, importance to indigenous nocturnal wildlife, cultural significance, etc.)
- J) Documentation or description of the preservation or restoration project (e.g. community outreach, lighting retrofits, etc.) currently in action.
- K) Description of interpretive program or interpretive products related to dark skies/natural darkness. Any related examples of successful education (photos, documentation of student projects, etc...)
- L) Future plans.
- M) Proposed alternative wording for IDA DSR (e.g. Dark Sky Wilderness, Dark Sky Refuge, etc.), if desired.
- N) An outline of an application is available and may be used upon request.

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### IDA REVIEW PROCESS

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- A) Applications are sent to the DSPC on a bi-monthly basis. Applications not ready for submission by the current deadline for committee consideration will be considered at the following regular committee meeting.

- B) IDA staff forwards application to the DSPC for review at the deadline. Approval of application by DSPC is by a 2/3 majority vote, or denial with reasons and recommendations. The DSPC committee may consider the application for up to two months after a regularly scheduled meeting before releasing a decision.
- C) Determination of sky quality tier (Gold, Silver, Bronze) takes place in consultation with the DSPC.
- D) The decision of the DSPC on a pending DSR application is forwarded to the IDA Board of Directors and is subject to a 10-day period in which the Board has the formal right to veto the designation should it perceive a problem with the application. Failure of the Board to act within 10 days shall constitute tacit endorsement of the DSPC recommendation. This effect shall be binding on all parties involved.
- E) If approved by the DSPC the location will be notified and the Program Manager will develop a media announcement plan with the location. The park has the right to choose when DSR designation is made public but must organize its announcement to coincide with IDA's unless otherwise discussed and agreed upon by both parties.
- F) If approved, the park is awarded the DSR designation and listed along with their application on the IDA website. By submitting the application, the park consents to have their complete application and all supporting materials posted to IDA's website unless otherwise stated. IDA realizes that certain circumstances surrounding a DSR application may cause some potential authors of letters of support (or opposition) to feel uneasy about publicly declaring their opinions about the IDA designation. In the interest of providing the Dark Sky Places Committee with as full a picture of community sentiment about applications as possible, it is possible for some letters to be suppressed from online publication if it is felt that making the letters publicly available will subject their authors to retaliation or harassment. A prospective DSR seeking this protection for letter writers must make a formal written request to that effect. The Program Manager must approve suppression of publication of any part of an application. Note that suppression of online publication does not prevent either the Committee or the IDA Board of Directors from reading all submitted letters.
- G) If denied, a letter is sent to applicant outlining elements of the application that need improvement and specific recommendations for ways to remedy them. Applications can be resubmitted for future consideration after remediation is complete. Prior rejection shall not prejudice an applicant against future consideration by IDA for the same or an alternate category of Dark Sky Places designation.
- H) IDA will make periodic checks after the designation is granted in order to ensure that the minimum Program standards are being upheld by the DSR and to ensure adequate progress is made toward the end of achieving the Program objectives.

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### **REASSESSMENT OF DSR DESIGNATIONS**

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A DSR designation is intended to represent the beginning of an ongoing relationship between the park and IDA to our mutual benefit. IDA will periodically review the nature of that relationship in the required annual reports (see "Minimum Requirements For All Reserves", Item L). From time to time, IDA also receives comments from visitors to DSRs that raise concerns about the veracity and timeliness of information provided to IDA by DSRs. IDA may, at its discretion, investigate claims in which it is alleged that

DSRs are not living up to commitments made to IDA and the public in their applications to the Program. This section details the IDA procedure for carrying out such investigations, and the rights of DSRs in such matters.

### **Investigation and Due Process**

An allegation of impropriety concerning any of the elements of participation in the Program outlined in this document is subject to IDA investigation and potential disciplinary action including temporary suspension and/or permanent revocation of the DSR designation. IDA staff shall perform due diligence in gathering facts concerning such allegations it deems credible, and will prepare a report of its findings for consideration by the DSPC. The DSPC commits to weighing the evidence fairly and impartially, and to seek to resolve disputes whenever possible through dialog. A DSR subject to an investigation shall be notified in a timely manner and solicited for evidence contrary to the specifics of the allegation at hand. The resolution manner of dialog shall be emphasized from the beginning, and the DSR will be given an opportunity to correct any deficiencies with regard to the Program guidelines established by the IDA investigation within a reasonable time period to be prescribed by the DSPC.

Failure to achieve consensus through these means risks a DSPC recommendation for suspension or revocation of the DSR designation. If made, such a recommendation will be forwarded to the IDA Board of Directors for formal ratification before coming into force. The Board's decision on any disciplinary matters involving a DSR shall be considered definitive and binding.

Any DSR so investigated has the right to review the allegations against it and all factual information collected by IDA pertinent to the allegations.

### **Reinstatement Following Suspension**

If the DSPC recommends a suspension of a DSR's IDA designation, and the Board ratifies the suspension, the DSR shall be immediately notified. The status of a suspended DSR shall be changed to "Provisional" in all IDA communications until the designation is reinstated or revoked; however, the process of obtaining reinstatement of a designation is not the same as that outlined in the "Provisional Status" section of these guidelines.

To obtain reinstatement of a suspended designation, the DSR must provide evidence to the DSPC's satisfaction that the specific issues identified by the DSPC as grounds for the suspension have been corrected and that all Program guidelines are once again met. The DSPC will consider the evidence presented by the DSR and render a judgment to either

- Accept the reinstatement petition, OR
- Reject the petition and recommend revocation, OR
- Return the petition with further instructions and a defined deadline for a DSR response.

A suspension left unresolved after one (1) year from the date of the Board's assent to the suspension automatically becomes a permanent revocation. Revocation entails removal of the DSR from IDA's roll of approved Dark Sky Places, and from mention on the IDA website and in member and external communications. IDA reserves the right to take legal action against any former DSR whose designation is duly revoked but continues to use the IDA name/logo in advertising, communications, and/or signage.

### **Sale or Transfer of Land Ownership**

IDA considers the rights and privileges outlined here in association with DSR status to be simultaneously permanent and revocable. Furthermore, IDA requires that the responsibilities and obligations of the landowner(s) at the time DSR status is achieved are incumbent upon all future landowner(s) if the core zone(s) of a participating Reserve is/are sold or its/their title is otherwise transferred to any other public or private owner. A new owner or owners may unilaterally withdraw from participation in the program at any time by indicating these wishes in writing; otherwise, IDA will hold a new owner or owners accountable to the provisions of these guidelines in perpetuity. Any failure of new ownership to abide by the conditions for continued participation in the program laid out in this document, whether indicated by withdrawal or abandonment of responsibilities, will cause IDA to take action as described above ('Investigation and Due Process') which may result in the permanent revocation of DSR status.