

WORLD LIST OF DARK SKY PROTECTED AREAS

Updated 29th August 2013

This is a list of dark sky protected areas that that incorporate one or more protected heritage areas. The information is been collected by members of the IUCN Dark Skies Advisory Group and is correct to the best of our knowledge. The list will be updated whenever we receive new information. For more details on these dark sky places, please search for authoritative web sites or contact the appropriate management agencies directly.

Please send corrections and additions for this list to dsag.iucn@gmail.com. Use the current entries to see what information fields and precision are required. Thank you.

Notes

- Constituent protected areas are listed.
- A central coordinate is presented in decimal latitude and longitude format.
- The area given is that of the constituent protected areas in the IUCN sense. A dark sky reserve, e.g. in the International Dark Sky Association sense, may be larger.
- The recognition information refers to the year of establishment as a dark sky place, not of the constituent protected area(s).
- Web sites are listed as starting points for further searching. These sites are not necessarily the official web site of the management agency.
- DSAG Class. A system of dark sky place types developed by DSAG to allow comparisons across different naming styles used in different countries and by different recognizing bodies. In cases where two or more classes could apply, the lower numbered class is given.
 - 1 Starlight Reserve:** astronomy observatory site and surrounding area
 - 2 Dark Sky Park:** protected natural area
 - 2a Park, reserve, habitat, natural area or other ecological protection
 - 2b Unpopulated area set aside for traditional or sacred practices related to the sky
 - 2c Rural area, area of outstanding landscape beauty
 - 3 Dark Sky Heritage Site:** protected heritage physical works of mankind
 - 4 Dark Sky Outreach Site**
 - 4a Urban or suburban site
 - 4b Rural site
 - 5 Dark Sky Reserve:** mix of cooperating community, rural and natural area jurisdictions
 - 6 Dark Sky Community:** an entire village, town or city.

Dark sky community information is not systematically collected by DSAG, as their focus is not on protected areas. However, for completion, they are listed at the end of this document.

Totals

Dark sky parks and reserves: 46

Dark sky communities: 5

CANADA

Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve

- Elk Island National Park of Canada
- Blackfoot Provincial Recreation Area

Central latitude/longitude: 53.6, -112.9. Area: 29,300 hectares

Recognition: 2006, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 2a

Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre Dark Sky Preserve

- Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre

Central latitude/longitude: 44.7, -81.2. Area: 130 hectares

Recognition: 2012, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 4b

Bruce Peninsula Dark Sky Preserve

- Bruce Peninsula National Park of Canada

Central latitude/longitude: 45.2, -81.5. Area: 16,700 hectares

Recognition: 2009, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 2a

Cattle Point Urban Star Park

- Uplands Park (part of), City of Victoria, British Columbia

Central latitude/longitude: 48.4, -123.3. Area: 6.8 hectares

Recognition: 2013, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 4a

Cypress Hills Dark Sky Preserve

- Cypress Hills Provincial Park (Alberta)
- Cypress Hills Provincial Park (Saskatchewan)
- Fort Walsh National Historic Site of Canada

Central latitude/longitude: 49.7, -110.2. Area: 39,600 hectares

Recognition: 2005, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 2a

Fundy Dark Sky Preserve

- Fundy National Park of Canada

Central latitude/longitude: 45.6, -65.1. Area: 20,600 hectares

Recognition: 2011, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 2a

Gordon's Park Dark Sky Preserve

- Gordon's Park

Central latitude/longitude: 45.7, -82.0. Area: 108 hectares

Recognition: 2008, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 4b

Grasslands Dark Sky Preserve

- Grasslands National Park of Canada

Central latitude/longitude: 49.1, -107.4. Area: 52,700 hectares

Recognition: 2009, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 2a

Irving Urban Star Park

- Irving Nature Park

Central latitude/longitude: 45.2, -66.1. Area: 243 hectares

Recognition: 2011, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 4a

Jasper Dark Sky Preserve

- Jasper National Park of Canada

Central latitude/longitude: 52.9, -118.0. Area: 1,122,800 hectares

Recognition: 2011, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 2a

Kejimikujik Dark Sky Preserve

- Kejimikujik National Park of Canada

Central latitude/longitude: 44.4, -65.2. Area: 40,370 hectares

Recognition: 2010, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 2a

Kouchibouguac Dark Sky Preserve

- Kouchibouguac National Park of Canada

Central latitude/longitude: 46.8, -65.0. Area: 23,920 hectares

Recognition: 2009, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 2a

McDonald Park Dark Sky Preserve

- McDonald Park (Abbotsford, British Columbia)

Central latitude/longitude: 49.1, -122.2. Area: 2,225 hectares

Recognition: 2003, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 4a

Mont-Mégantic International Dark Sky Reserve

- Mont-Mégantic National Park of Québec

Central latitude/longitude: 45.5, -71.2. Area: 5,845 hectares

Recognition: 2007, International Dark Sky Association

DSAG Class 1

Mount Carleton Dark Sky Preserve

- Mount Carleton Provincial Park

Central latitude/longitude: 47.4, -66.9. Area: 17,427 hectares

Recognition: 2009, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 2a

Point Pelee Dark Sky Preserve

- Point Pelee National Park of Canada

Central latitude/longitude: 42.0, -82.5. Area: 2,000 hectares

Recognition: 2006, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 2a

Torrance Barrens Dark Sky Reserve

- Torrance Barrens Conservation and Dark Sky Reserve

Central latitude/longitude: 44.9, -79.5. Area: 1,990 hectares

Recognition: 1999, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 2a

Wood Buffalo Dark Sky Reserve

- Wood Buffalo National Park of Canada

Central latitude/longitude: 59.8, -112.0. Area: 4,400,000 hectares

Recognition: 2013, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

DSAG Class 2a

CZECH REPUBLIC

Beskydy Dark Sky Park

- Beskydy Protected Landscape Area (includes many nature reserves and national monuments)

Central latitude/longitude: 49.5, 18.5. Area: 22,230 hectares

Recognition: 2013: Czech Astronomical Society, Beskydy Protected Landscape Area and Czech Republic Forests - Forestry Office Ostravice

DSAG Class 2b

See also joint entry with Slovakia

Izera Dark Sky Park

- Jizerske hory Protected Landscape Area
- Bukovec Nature Reserve
- Raseliniste Jizery National Nature Reserve
- Rybi Loucky Nature Reserve

Central latitude/longitude: 50.8, 15.3. Area: 3,600 hectares

Recognition: 2009: Astronomical Institute of the Academy of Sciences; Protected Landscape Area Jizerske hory; Liberec Regional Directorate of Czech Republic Forests

DSAG Class 2a

See also the joint entry with Poland

HUNGARY

Hortobágy Starry-Sky Park

- Hortobágy National Park

Central latitude/longitude: 47.6, 21.1. Area: 82,000.0 hectares

Recognition: 2011, International Dark Sky Association

DSAG Class 2a

Zselic Starry-Sky Park

- Zselic Landscape Protection Area (Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate)

Central latitude/longitude: 46.4, 18.3. Area: 9,042 hectares

Recognition: 2009, International Dark Sky Association; 2006, Hungarian Astronomical Association

DSAG Class 2a

NAMIBIA

NamibRand International Dark Sky Reserve

- NamibRand Nature Reserve

Central latitude/longitude: -25.1, 16.0. Area: 172,200 hectares

Recognition 2012, International Dark Sky Association

DSAG Class 2a

NEW ZEALAND

Aoraki/Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve

- Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park

Central latitude/longitude: -43.6, 170.3. Area: 70,696 hectares

Recognition: 2012. International Dark Sky Association

DSAG Class 1

POLAND

Bieszczady Starry-Sky Park

- East Carpathian Biosphere Reserve, consisting of:
 - Bieszczady National Park
 - San Valley Landscape Park
 - Cisna-Wetlina Landscape

Central latitude/longitude: 49.2, 22.47. Area: 113,846 hectares

Recognition: 2013. Administrative districts Lutowiska and Komancza; Bieszczady National Park in Ustrzyki Gorne; Administration of the Carpathian Landscape Parks in Krosno; The State Forests National Forest Holding - District Lutowiska and Stuposiany; Faculty of Environmental Engineering of the University of Technology of Cracow; Pedagogical University of Cracow - Mt. Suhora Astronomical Observatory; Bieszczady Foundation; Bieszczady Regional Development Agency; The Carpathian Wildlife Foundation; Joint Schools in Lutowiska

DSAG class 1

Izera Dark Sky Park

- Torfowiska Doliny Izery Nature Reserve

Central latitude/longitude: 50.8, 15.4. Area: 3,850 hectares

Recognition: 2009. Astronomical Institute of the University of Wroclaw; Polish State Forests, Forestry Commission Swieradow; Polish State Forests, Forestry Commission Szklarska Poreba

DSAG Class 2a

See also the joint entry with the Czech Republic.

SLOVAKIA

Beskydy Dark Sky Park

- Kysuce Protected Landscape Area (includes two national monuments)

Central latitude/longitude: 49.4, 18.5. Area: 8,570 hectares

Recognition: 2013: Kysuce Protected Landscape Area and Slovak Astronomical Society of Slovak Academy of Sciences

DSAG Class 2b

See also joint entry with Czech Republic

Poloniny Dark Sky Park

- Poloniny National Park; villages of Kolonica, Ladomirov, Kalná Roztoka, Klenová, and Ruská Volová

Central latitude/longitude: 49.0, 22.4. Area: 48,519.0 hectares

Recognition: 2010, Slovak Union of Amateur Astronomers

DSAG Class 2a

SPAIN

Fuerteventura Starlight Reserve

- Core Area of the Fuerteventura Biosphere Reserve
- Betancuria Natural Protected Area
- Jandía Natural Park

Central latitude/longitude: 28.44, -14.10. Area: 60,517.0 hectares

Recognition: 2009, Starlight Foundation

DSAG Class 5

La Palma Starlight Reserve

- La Caldera de Taburiente National Park
- Pinar de Garafía Natural Reserve
- Las Nieves Natural Park
- Cumbre Vieja Natural Park

Central latitude/longitude: 28.71, -17.86. Area: 18,627.0 hectares

Recognition: 2011, Starlight Foundation

DSAG Class 1

La Rioja Biosphere Reserve Starlight Reserve

- Core Area of the La Rioja Biosphere Reserve

Central latitude/longitude: 42.01, -2.01. Area: 5,983 hectares

Recognition: 2011, Starlight Foundation

DSAG Class 2a

Monfragüe Starlight Reserve

- Monfrague National Park and Biosphere Reserve.

Central latitude/longitude: 39.82, -5.94. Area: 18,118 hectares

Recognition: 2011, Starlight Foundation

DSAG Class 5

UNITED KINGDOM

Brecon Beacons International Dark Sky Reserve

- Brecon Beacons National Park

Central latitude/longitude: 51.9, -3.5. Area: 134,679 hectares

Recognition: 2013, International Dark Sky Association

DSAG Class 5

Exmoor International Dark Sky Reserve

- Exmoor National Park

Central latitude/longitude: 51.14, -3.65. Area: 69,200 hectares

Recognition: 2011, International Dark Sky Association

DSAG Class 5

Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park

- Galloway Forest Park

Central latitude/longitude: 55.1, -4.4. Area: 80,700 hectares

Recognition: 2009, International Dark Sky Association

DSAG Class 5

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Big Bend International Dark Sky Park

Big Bend National Park

Central latitude/longitude: 29.2, -103.2. Area: 324,219 hectares

Recognition: 2012, International Dark Sky Association

DSAG Class 2a

Chaco Culture International Dark Sky Park

- Chaco Culture National Historic Park

Central latitude/longitude: 36.1, -108.0. Area: 13,749 hectares

Recognition: 2013, International Dark Sky Association

DSAG Class 3

Cherry Springs Dark Sky Park

- Cherry Springs State Park

Central latitude/longitude: 41.7, -77.8. Area: 19 hectares

Recognition: 2000, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

DSAG Class 2a

Clayton Lake Dark Sky Park

- Clayton Lake State Park

Central latitude/longitude: 36.6, -103.3. Area: 231 hectares

Recognition: 2010, International Dark Sky Association

DSAG Class 2a

Death Valley International Dark Sky Park

- Death Valley National Park

Central latitude/longitude: 36.5, -117.1. Area: 1,363,000 hectares

Recognition: 2013, International Dark Sky Association

DSAG Class 2a

Goldendale Observatory Dark Sky Park

- Goldendale Observatory State Park

Central latitude/longitude: 45.8, -120.8. Area: 2 hectares

Recognition: 2010, International Dark Sky Association

DSAG Class 1

Headlands International Dark Sky Park

- Headlands Park

Central latitude/longitude: 45.8, -84.8. Area: 242.8 hectares

Recognition: 2011, International Dark Sky Association

DSAG Class 2a

Lake Hudson Recreation Area Dark Sky Preserve

- Lake Hudson Recreation Area

Central latitude/longitude: 41.8, -84.3. Area: 890 hectares

Recognition: 1993, Michigan legislation

DSAG Class 2c

Natural Bridges Dark Sky Park

- Natural Bridges National Monument

Central latitude/longitude: 37.6, -110.0. Area: 3,091 hectares

Recognition: 2007, International Dark Sky Association

DSAG Class 2a

Observatory Park International Dark Sky Park

- Observatory Park

Central latitude/longitude: 41.6, -81.2. Area: 418.4 hectares

Recognition: 2009, International Dark Sky Association

DSAG Class 1

Potawatomi Dark-Sky Preserve

- Potawatomi Wildlife Park

Central latitude/longitude: 41.2, -86.1. Area: 129 hectares

Recognition: 2009, Indiana Council on Lighting Education, Indiana legislation

DSAG Class 2a

DARK SKY COMMUNITIES

The International Dark Sky Association and the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada also recognize the following dark sky communities. All are DSAG Class 6.

Canada: North Frontenac Township

United Kingdom: Sark.

United States of America: Homer Glen; Borrego Springs; Flagstaff.