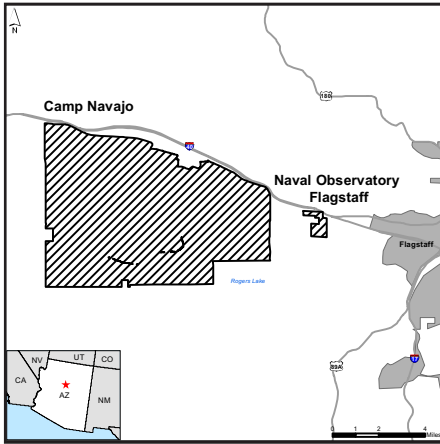




**NAVAL OBSERVATORY FLAGSTAFF**

**Naval Observatory (NO) Flagstaff is the national dark-sky observatory site for the Department of Defense, located in an area of north-central Arizona with the ideal geographic, climatic, and atmospheric conditions for scientific observation and research of the night sky.**



This observation and research forms the basis of star catalogs and orientation of space systems. NO Flagstaff is also where the Precise Time and Time Intervals used across the DOD are maintained.

Many local government entities promote lighting codes to protect dark night skies in the region in support of the mission at NO Flagstaff, but there continue to be multiple encroachment threats. These threats include residential and commercial development pressures, which can increase light pollution or

particulate matter into the air. In addition to protecting the observatory’s mission, the NO Flagstaff REPI partnership also supports the mission at Camp Navajo, located a few short miles down the road. Limiting development pressures protects Camp Navajo’s high altitude readiness training from additional lights and noise complaints and safeguards the installation from the risk of trespass into storage areas for munitions and Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty compliant materials.

Under a Sikes Act agreement, the Navy uses a prescribed fire regime as well as mechanical and hand thinning practices on nearby forest lands to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and protect habitat for the threatened Mexican spotted owl. Additionally, the NO Flagstaff REPI Program also protects water recharge supply for DoD and local communities and supports the U.S. Forest Service’s Four Forest Restoration Initiative and its goals to restore the health of ponderosa pine ecosystems and reduce the threat of severe wildfires.



*A night sky clear of smoke and lights allows Naval Observatory Flagstaff to conduct scientific observation and research for reference frames for celestial navigation and orientation (top). Protected lands in this area also supports buffers for training at Camp Navajo that causes noise and dust (bottom).*

**BENEFIT SUMMARY**

**COMMUNITY**

- Preserves forest lands and increases wildfire resiliency
- Protects habitat for notable species
- Provides water supply and recharge protection for the community

**MILITARY**

- Provides unique location and conditions for scientific observation and research of the night sky
- Supports military operations at nearby Camp Navajo

**KEY PARTNERS**

- Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management
- Arizona Department of Game and Fish
- Arizona State Forestry Department
- City of Flagstaff
- Coconino County
- Coconino National Forest
- Compatible Lands Foundation
- National Forest Foundation
- Northern Arizona University
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**CONTACT**

**COMMUNITY PLANS AND LIAISON OFFICE:**  
 760) 339-2224

**FAST FACTS** FROM FY 2020 THROUGH FY 2023 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority	Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	2	300	\$7.3 million
Other (e.g., Sikes Act, IGSA)	–	–	\$1.5 million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>\$8.8 million</b>

*Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding*