



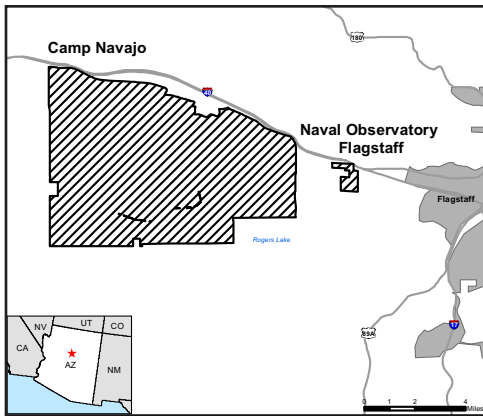
U.S. NAVY :

# NO FLAGSTAFF : ARIZONA



**N**aval 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 incompatible development, which can still increase light pollution, and smoke from



wood burning fireplaces that obstructs clear skies required for sensitive telescopes. The Navy is also seeking easements that require a prescribed fire regime on forest lands to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire while also benefiting a healthy native ecosystem.

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 incompatible development 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. This REPI project also has significant community and environmental benefits, providing habitat for the threatened Mexican spotted owl and protecting water recharge supply for DoD and local communities.

## BENEFIT SUMMARY

### COMMUNITY

- Preserves forest lands
- 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



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).

## KEY PARTNERS

- Arizona Department of Game and Fish
- Arizona State Forestry Department
- City of Flagstaff
- Coconino County
- Compatible Lands Foundation
- Northern Arizona University
- USFWS

## FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2017

- » Acres preserved: **0**
- » Transactions conducted: **0**
- » Total funds expended: **\$0**
- » Project status: **Initiated**

## CONTACT

**NO Flagstaff Direct Number**  
(928) 779-5132