

Town of Bluff

Planning and Zoning Commission

Minutes for October 14th, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Public Hearing on draft Outdoor Lighting Ordinances

at the Bluff Community Center

190 North 3rd East, Bluff, Utah 84512

APPROVED

7:04 Roll Call

Commissioners: Sarah Burak, Malysa Egge, Robin Cantrell, Michael Haviken, Amanda Podmore

1. Presentation on Dark Skies - Burak
2. Presentation of Draft Outdoor Lighting Ordinance - Podmore
3. Public Comment Received - Burak

Brant Murray said dark skies are what will make Bluff special in 10 years. Nike Stevens asked about the matter of enforcement and said Bozeman, Montana has lost a significant amount of its dark sky in recent years. Ann Kramer asked for clarification of the definition of trespass. Burak addressed the idea of creating a volunteer dark sky committee and ways to incentivize compliance. Ray Foushee supported the light curfew. Tina Krutsky also supported a 10 pm curfew and said that aligned with the neighborhood survey she did for the Community Center in the past. Haviken queried the audience to see who supported dark skies; all present raised their hands. Krutsky suggested the Commission work with the hardware store in Blanding to get them to carry dark sky light fixtures. Cantrell said the Commission hopes to share online links to make it easier to find compliant fixtures. Burak said the term used is full cut-off or fully-shielded. Kramer asked about party lights for short term events. Sally Cole suggested red lights are a good solution to wildlife.

8:41 Adjourn - Cantrell motions to adjourn, Haviken seconds. Four in favor, Egge abstains. Meeting adjourned.

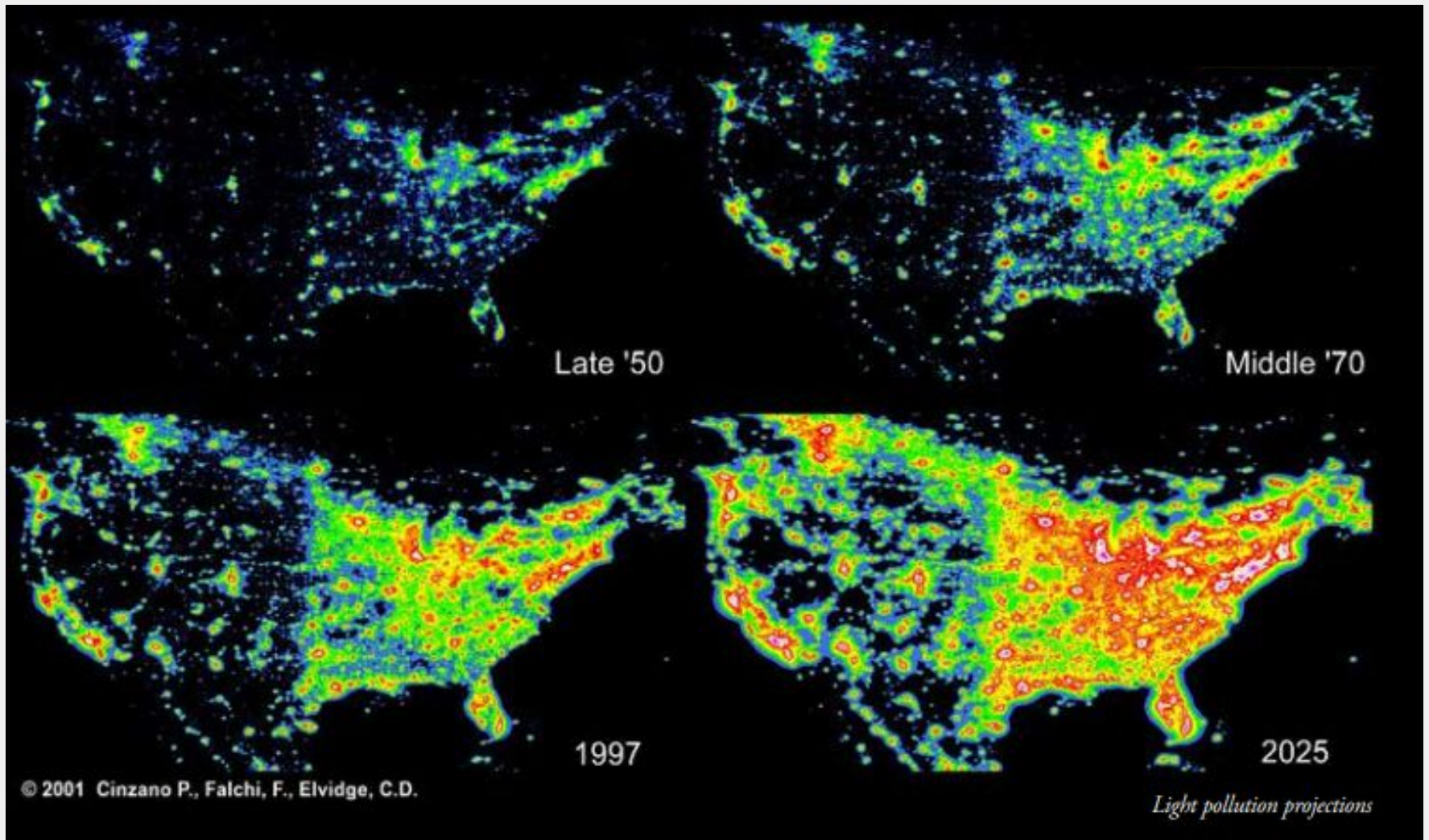


Bluff Dark Sky Discussion and Proposed Ordinance



Milky Way over Bluff

Light Pollution Basics



FOUR CATEGORIES OF LIGHT POLLUTION

LIGHT TRESPASS When light falls where it is not wanted or needed. Use fully shielded light fixtures whenever possible.

UNDESIRABLE



DESIREABLE



GLARE Intense and blinding light that reduces visibility and causes discomfort. Direct light downwards and use the lowest adequate light intensity.



CLUTTER Excessive groupings of light sources that are bright and confusing. Only direct lighting onto desired areas and avoid excessive lighting.



SKYGLOW The brightening of the night sky over inhabited areas. Use fully shielded light fixtures, direct light downwards, use the lowest adequate light intensity, and optimize lighting placement.



Reasons to Promote Dark Skies

- Energy Savings
- Property Value
- Astro-Tourism
- Circadian Disruption
- Safety
- Natural Ecosystems
- Heritage and Rural Character

Safety-Poor lighting



Utah NP Tourism

Economic Contributions of National Park Visitor Spending UTAH ECONOMY - 2016



14.4 MILLION
TOTAL RECREATION VISITS



\$1.1 BILLION
TOTAL VISITOR SPENDING



17.9 THOUSAND
JOBS



\$546.7 MILLION
LABOR INCOME



\$886.1 MILLION
VALUE ADDED



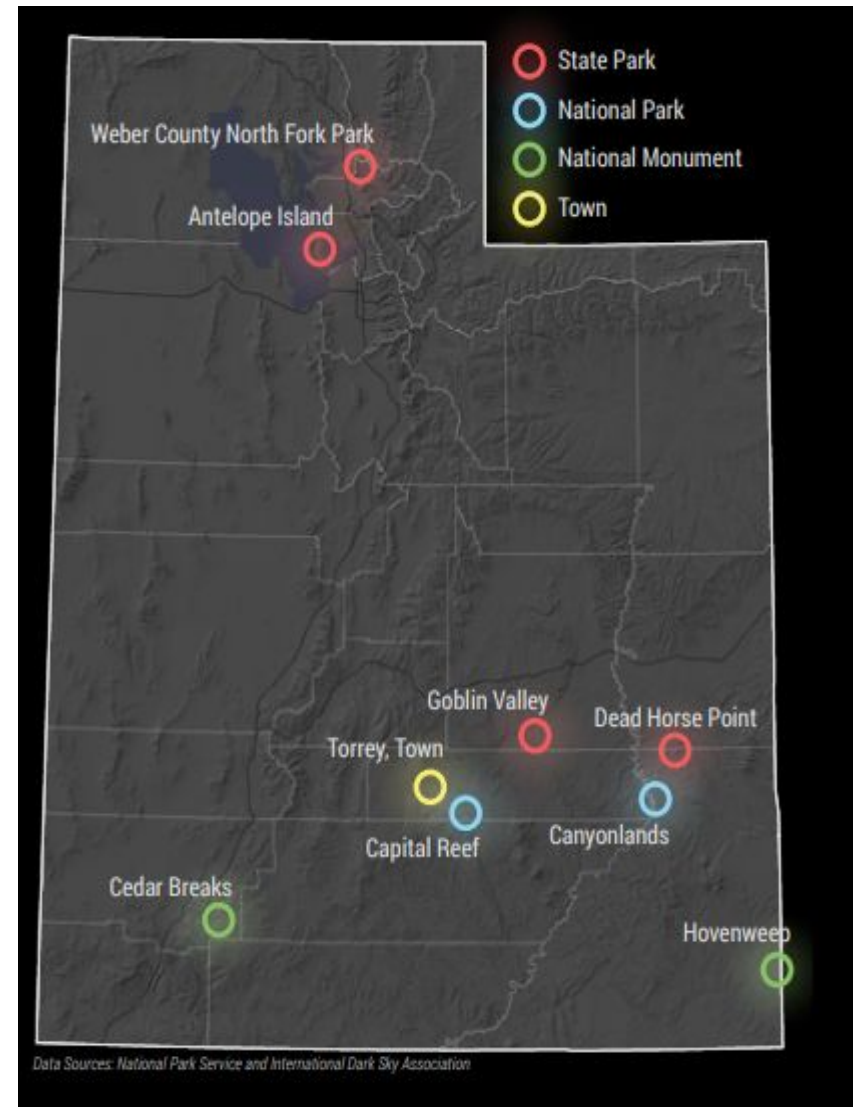
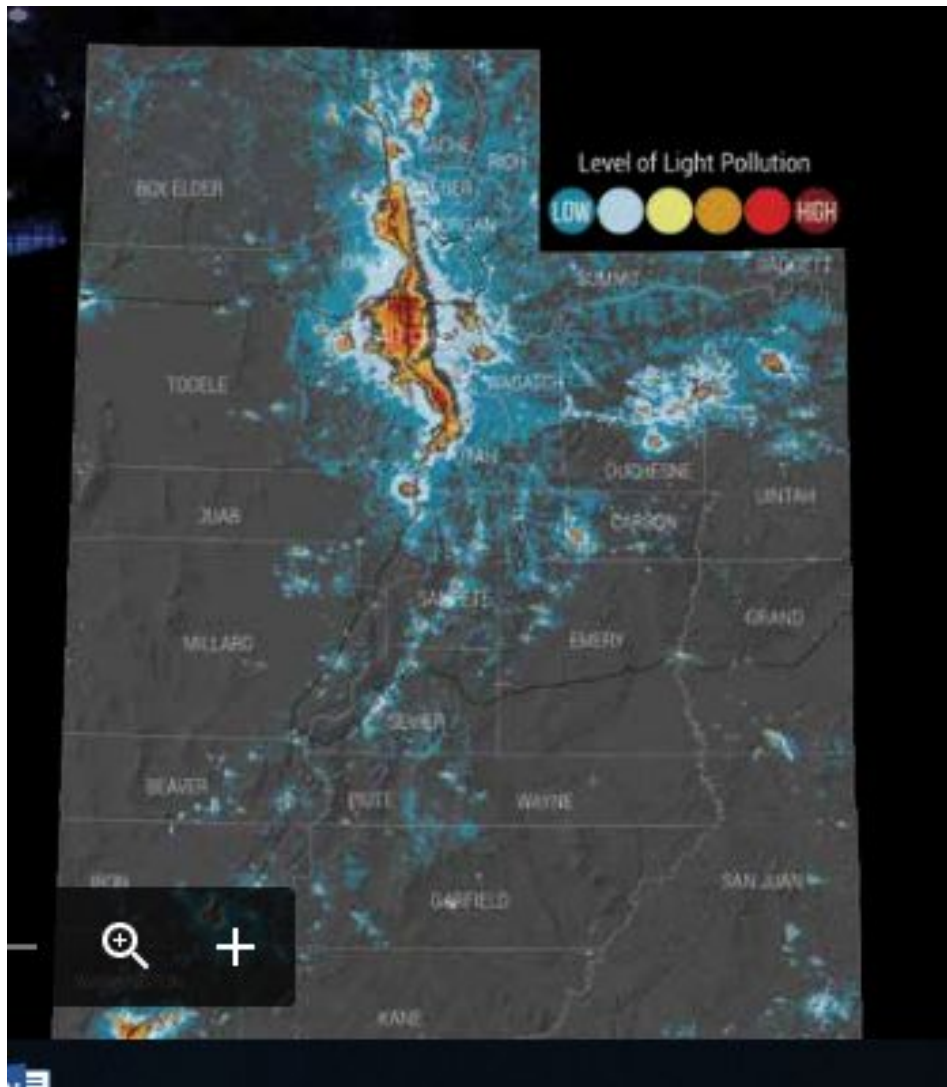
\$1.6 BILLION
ECONOMIC OUTPUT

Data Source: National Park Service

Benefits of Astro-Tourism

- More overnight stays in a location
- Additional meals for stays
- Activity for the off-season
 - Winter provides longer nights, earlier darkness, and clearer skies
 - Additional town festival

Dark Skies in Utah



Parks in the Process

- Arches -most recent addition!!!
- Bryce Canyon
- Zion NP
- Dinosaur National Monument
- Grand Staircase-Escalante
- Rainbow Bridge
- Glen Canyon
- Goosenecks State Park
- Goblin Valley State Park
- at least 12 more on the list

Dark Sky Communities

- Torrey, Utah
- Flagstaff, Arizona
- Sedona, Arizona

Working Towards this Goal

- Moab, Utah
- Helper, Utah
- Springdale, Utah
- Kanab, Utah

The "Three-legged stool"



SHIELDING

LIGHTING LEVELS

COLOR

General Standard “Good Neighbor Lighting”

Glare and
projection of
unused light
into night-time
sky



Fully shielded
light source



Site
improvement
providing
shielding



Light Trespass

No Light Trespass

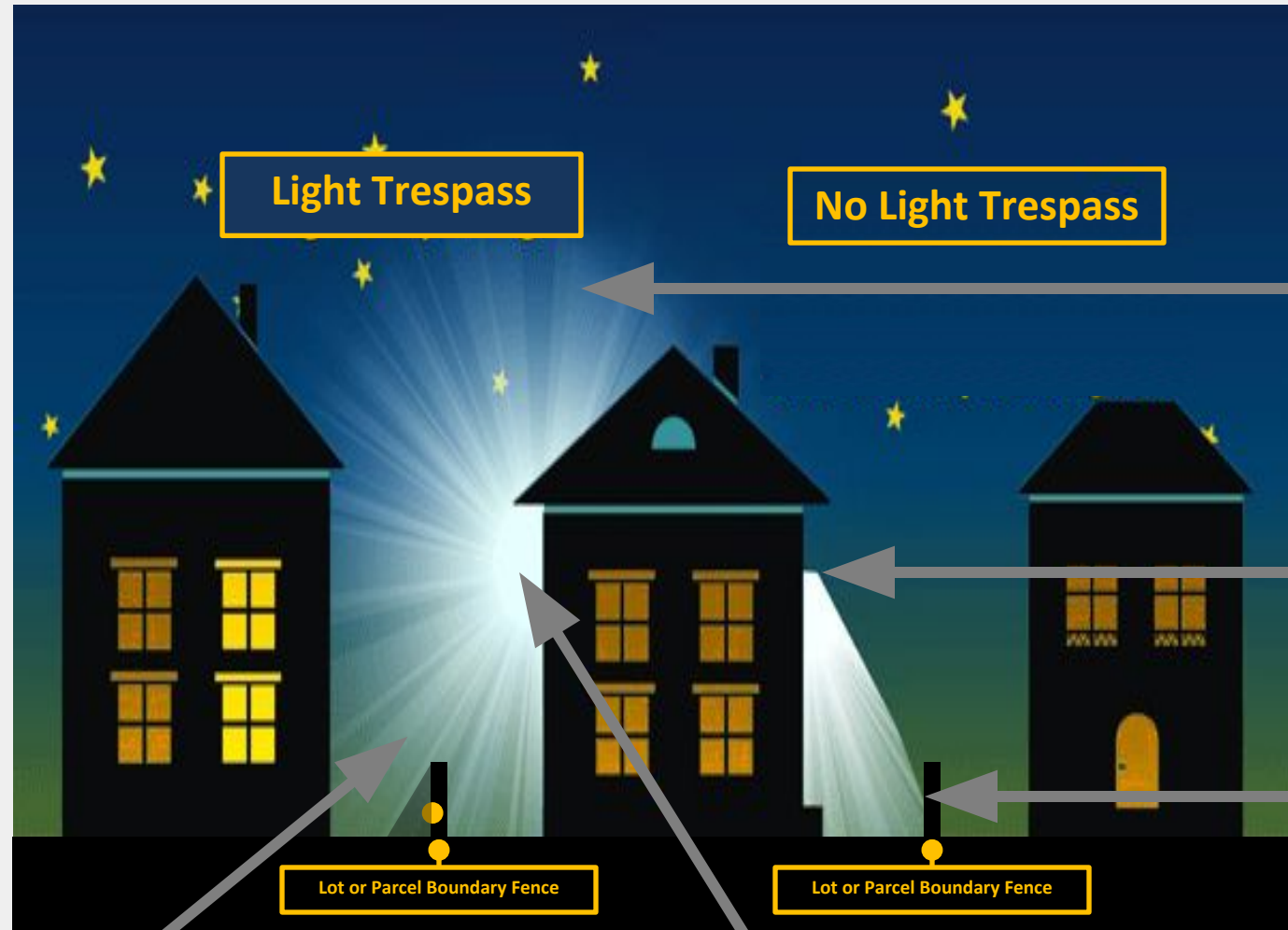
Lot or Parcel Boundary Fence

Lot or Parcel Boundary Fence

Light trespass



Unshielded
light source





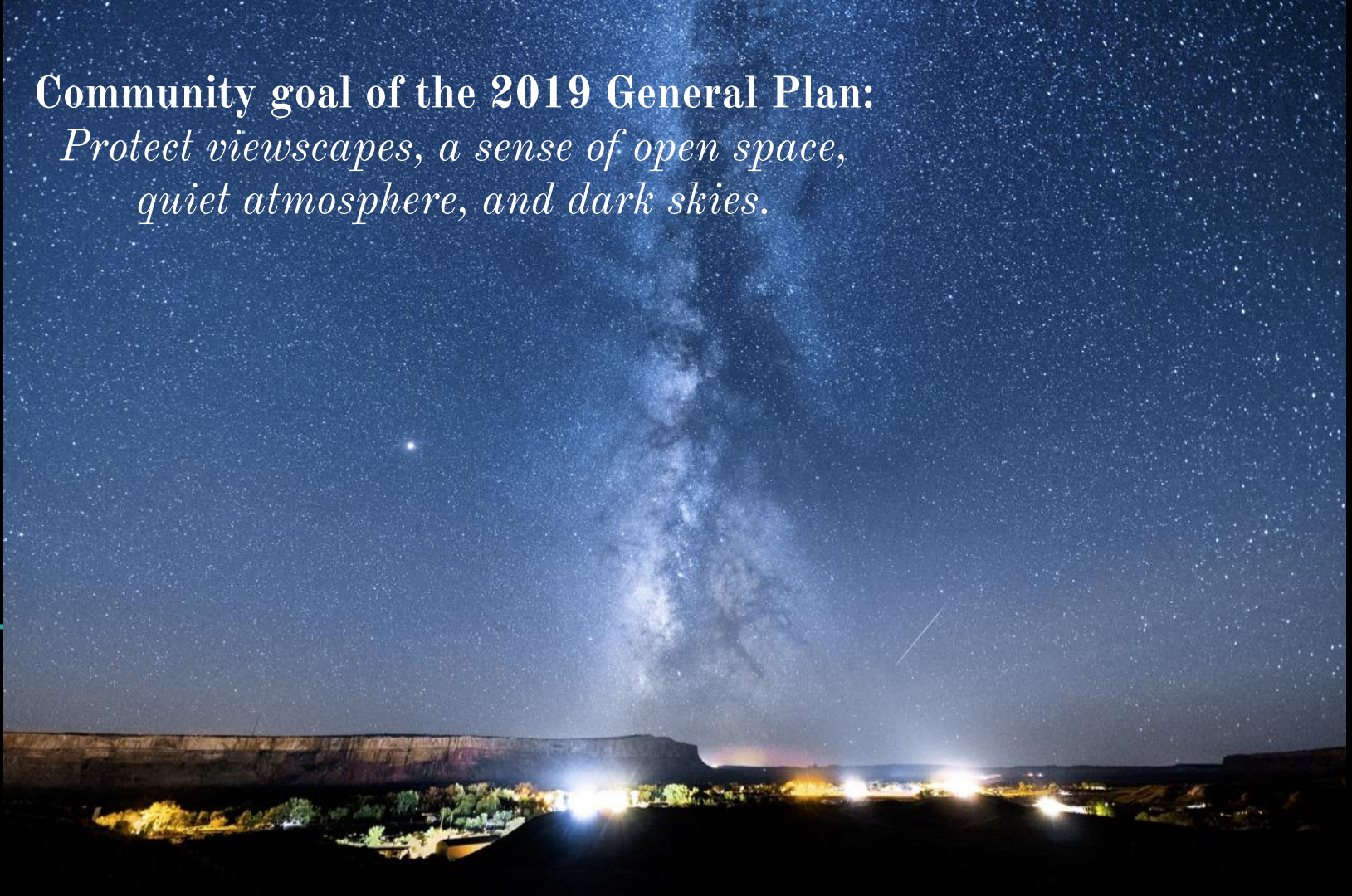
Stars
Can't
Shine
Without
Darkness

Proposed Outdoor Lighting Ordinance For the Town of Bluff

Presentation & Public Hearing
October 14, 2019 | 7:00 PM

Community goal of the 2019 General Plan:

*Protect viewscales, a sense of open space,
quiet atmosphere, and dark skies.*





Ordinances are a big step in becoming a
certified dark sky community!

What does it apply to?

- All outdoor lighting in all zones
 - This includes residences so we all do our part!
 - Indoor lighting that trespasses beyond original property line
 - Signs
-

Helpful definitions

- Defines fully shielded/partially shielded lights
- Gives examples
- Has a chart comparing *lumens* to watts



Light plans required

For sign permits, building
permit applications, and Level II
Site Plan Applications

- **Reminder:** Level II site plan is for the development of 7 or more residential units or the development or remodeling of 5,000 square feet of commercial space.
 - Requires **drawings** of proposed lighting, table of proposed exterior light lumens
 - **Submit it at the same time** as other permits
-

Maximum outdoor lighting

Determined by zones

- **Residential:** 5,000 lumens/acre
- **Commercial 1:** 25,000 lumens/acre
- **Commercial 2:** 35,000 lumens/acre
- **Commercial 3:** 45,000 lumens/acre
- **Industrial:** 25,000 lumens/acre
- **All other zones:** 3,000 lumens/acre

*Remember, a 60W bulb is about 700 lumens.

Light Curfew

- Proposed that one hour after business is closed, lights must be turned off.
 - Hotels are exempt
 - Recreational lighting shall be turned off by 10:00 P.M., except to conclude a community event.
-

Exemptions

- **Holiday lighting** from October 25 to January 3
 - The lighting of federal or state **flags**
 - **LED lights and solar lights** used to illuminate pathways in residential areas, installed no more than 18" above the adjacent ground level and have caps that direct the light downward.
-

Certain types of lights are prohibited

- Spotlights
 - Floodlights
 - Uplighting
 - Signs that blink, flash, have moving text or images
 - Light that trespasses beyond property line
-

Dec. 31, 2021

(Pssst: this is the Compliance Date!)

Thank you!

Advisory Council, especially
Deborah Westfall

International Dark Sky
Association

Existing dark sky communities
who helped inspire us and give
examples of ordinances
(thanks Moab, Torrey, Helper,
and more!)