NAVAL OBSERVATORY, FLAGSTAFF: ARIZONA

Located within an alpine forest on the Colorado Plateau, U.S. Naval Observatory, Flagstaff, (NOFS) is the US Naval Observatory’s dark-sky site for optical and near-infrared astronomy. In 1955 the observatory moved from Washington, D.C. to its current location five miles west of Flagstaff, Arizona. It is administratively a tenant of NAF El Centro.

At 7,600 feet above sea level, the observatory is the Navy's highest elevated observatory and a national dark sky observing site. Although light pollution threatens its mission, the observatory has successfully managed to maintain its dark sky by working collaboratively with federal, state, and local agencies and private and commercial landowners.

Notably, the observatory also operates the Navy Prototype Optical Interferometer with Lowell Observatory and the Naval Research Laboratory at Anderson Mesa, Arizona, which takes remarkably detailed images of celestial bodies.

NOFS’ total annual economic impact is $10M.

FAST FACTS

» Location: Coconino County, AZ (near Flagstaff)
» Land Area: 287 acres
» Personnel: 35 scientists, engineers, and staff

For more information, please see <http://www.nofs.navy.mil/>