



**BY THE PINAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
PROCLAMATION  
INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK  
APRIL 21 - APRIL 28, 2025**

**WHEREAS**, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind; and

**WHEREAS**, the experience of standing beneath a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and encourages a growing interest in science and nature, especially among young people and out-of-area visitors within the local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, light pollution has scientifically-established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts on the ecology and human health of all communities; and

**WHEREAS**, 80 % of the world’s population, including many people in Pinal County, live under a dome of light pollution—excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness—and may never experience the visual wonder or ecological and health benefits of living under a dark sky; and

**WHEREAS**, light pollution represents a waste of natural resources amounting to roughly \$3 billion per year of personal, business, and tax dollars in wasted energy costs in the United States and contributes to diminished energy security; and

**WHEREAS**, Arizona hosts 10% of the world’s largest telescopes—including the world’s largest optical telescope—and many of the world’s most revered observatories, including the Lowell Observatory, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory/Whipple Observatory, the University of Arizona’s MMT and Large Binocular Telescope Observatories, Kitt Peak National Observatory, and the Vatican Observatory; and

**WHEREAS**, optical astronomy—which is both hindered and endangered by unfettered light pollution—represents a statewide capital investment of more than \$1.3 billion and an annual economic return of over \$250 million, including an indirect attachment to more than 150,000 jobs through the aerospace and defense sector; and

**WHEREAS**, Arizona is home to dozens of nocturnal wildlife species—including the black-footed ferret, one of the most endangered mammals on the North American continent—and these species rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate, and thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, DarkSky International, headquartered in Tucson, Arizona, is the globally recognized authority on light pollution, and uses International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of light pollution, provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public to encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE**, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim April 21-28, 2025 as **“INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK”**. We ask each resident of Pinal County to join, not only in observing and pondering upon this important week, but also in raising awareness and support for protecting our precious dark skies resources. Proclaimed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2025.

ATTEST:

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Natasha Kennedy, Clerk of the Board

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Stephen Q. Miller, Chairman, District 3

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Jeffrey McClure, Vice-Chairman, District 4

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Rich Vitiello, District 1

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Mike Goodman, District 2

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Jeff Serdy, District 5