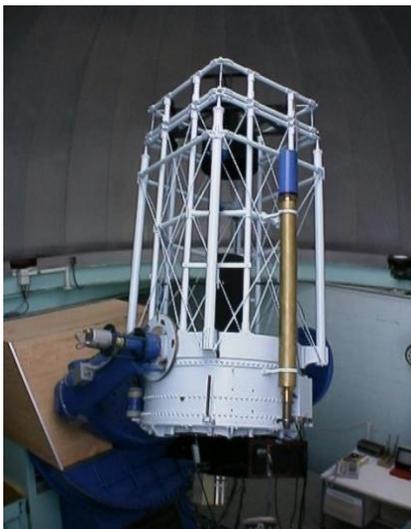


U.S. Navy

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**



Above: Located at NOFS, the 1.55 meter Kaj Strand Reflector has been the Navy's largest telescope since 1964 (U.S. Navy Photo)

Left: NOFS is home to the largest and last Ritchey-Chretien telescope built by American astronomer George W. Ritchey, which was constructed in 1934. (U.S. Navy Photo)

MISSION STATEMENT

- » To make, analyze, and interpret such astrometric and photometric dark sky observations as are required to fulfill the mission of the U.S. Naval Observatory
- » To conduct a research program to improve the observational methods and the accuracy of astronomical data required by the Navy and other components of the Department of Defense
- » To perform such other functions or tasks as may be directed by higher authority

CONTACT

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