McDonald Observatory’s Strategy with the Oil & Gas Industry

On behalf of Bill Wren
(Special Assistant to the Director)
and Craig Nance (Observatory Superintendent)
Bill Wren at McDonald Observatory
McDonald Observatory
Located in the Davis Mountains of Far West Texas: a very dark continental site in the southwest United States at 2,040m elevation
McDonald Observatory
Night Sky Reserve
2012

Source: NOAA, VIIRS
Night Sky at McDonald
Growth in NSB from a Ranch 10 mi SE
In August 2015, Bill Wren from McDonald Observatory took measurements from the top of Enchanted Rock using equipment from the National Park Service to establish a baseline for light pollution from anthropogenic sources.
Light Pollution on the Horizon from Rigs

El Paso/Juarez
Permian Basin

U.S. National Park Service
Night Skies Program

McDonald Observatory
August 5, 2015 20.6 hours LMT

Data collected by: B Wren
Data processed by: D Duriscoe
UT Arlington & Apache Corp. partner on water study
McDonald Observatory

The McDonald Observatory hopes to keep the West Texas skies dark. In the last five years, more than 5,000 drilling permits have been issued in nearby Reeves, Culberson and Pecos counties.
May Your Hard Work Pay Off, Bill!