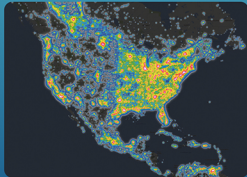


CLASS I
DARK SKY ISLANDS



This map is a hand made inversion of the world atlas of artificial sky luminance, made to highlight where Bortle Class 1 skies (21.7-22.0 mag/arcsec² or <.01-.02 fraction above natural sky) might be found.

The 2015 Atlas data shows that "more than 99% of the U.S. lives under light polluted skies and that the Milky Way is hidden from nearly 80% of North Americans".

"The artificial brightening of the night sky represents a profound alteration of a fundamental human experience—the opportunity for each person to view and ponder the night sky."

BORTLE CLASS	SKY DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE ON MAP	SKY BRIGHTNESS
CLASS 1 21.7-22.0mag/arcsec ² EXCELLENT DARK-SKY SITE	Many Messier and globular clusters are naked-eye objects The Scorpionus and Sagittarius regions of the Milky Way cast obvious shadows Many constellations are barely recognizable due to the large number of stars Zodiacal Light, Airglow & the Gegenschein is readily visible		class 1 class 2 class 3 class 4 class 5 class 6-7 class 8-9
CLASS 2 21.3-21.7mag/arcsec ² TYPICAL TRULY DARK SITE	M33 is easily seen with naked eye, Milky Way is highly structured Airglow may be weakly visible near horizon Surroundings are barely visible; clouds appear as dark holes against the sky Zodiacal light is bright enough to cast shadows at dusk and dawn		10000 5000 2000 1000 500 200
CLASS 3 21.3-21.5mag/arcsec ² RURAL SKY	M33 is easily visible with averted vision, Milky Way seems complex Clouds are illuminated near the horizon, dark overhead Nearer surroundings are vaguely visible		10000 5000 2000 1000 500 200
CLASS 4-9 21.3-21.0mag/arcsec ² RURAL SKY - INNER-CITY SKY	M33 at best is a difficult averted vision object, Milky Way lacks detail Light pollution domes visible in several directions Clouds are illuminated in the directions of the light sources Surroundings are clearly visible, even at a distance		10000 5000 2000 1000 500 200

