



THE BASIN AND RANGE DARK SKY COOPERATIVE

The Basin and Range region in the western United States is named for its erratic and abrupt changes in elevation and topography. Not surprisingly, deserts, mountain ranges, alpine and alkaline lakes, and valleys can be found within this region. What may be less obvious is that this area harbors some of the best places in the country to observe the Milky Way and star studded night skies. The darkest part of this landscape forms the Basin and Range Dark Sky Cooperative, America's 2nd dark sky cooperative following in the footsteps of the Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative.

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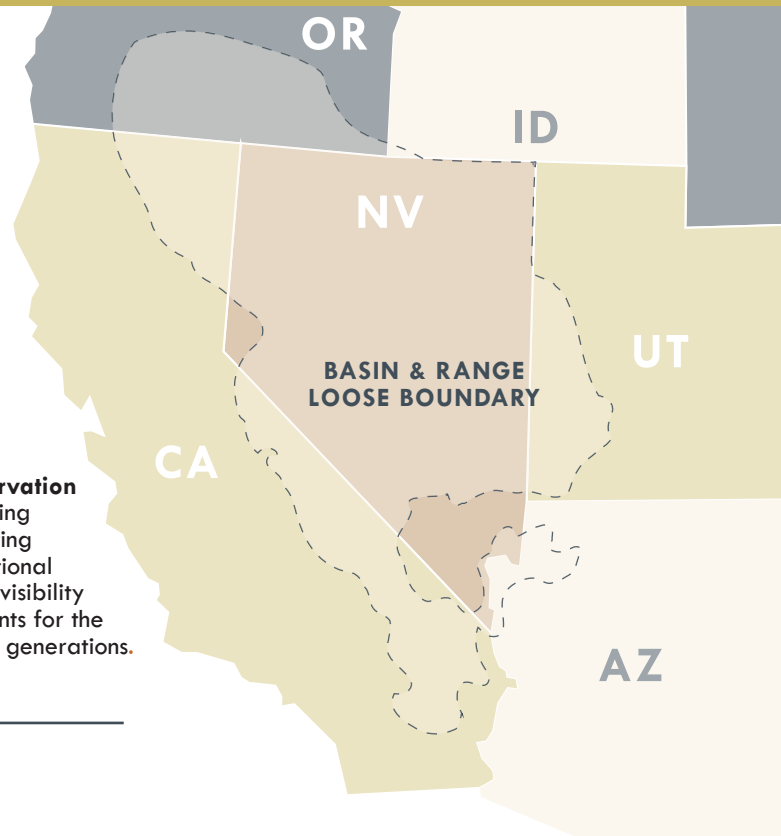
COOPERATIVE MISSION

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What may be less obvious is that this area harbors some of the best places in the country to observe the Milky Way and star studded night skies. The darkest part of this landscape forms the Basin and Range Dark Sky Cooperative, America's second dark sky cooperative following in the footsteps of the Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative.

We encourage community-based landscape-scale approaches to dark sky conservation and recognize that **civic engagement is the foundation for a shared stewardship** of our starry sky heritage.

We invite agencies, business, communities and individuals to **become dedicated to the conservation of quality night skies** by adopting policy, promoting and participating in actions and conducting educational outreach in support of night sky visibility and natural nocturnal environments for the enjoyment of present and future generations.



PRIMARY OBJECTIVES



Work to establish a regional "dark sky network" between communities, tribes, businesses, state agencies, federal agencies, and citizens. The goal of this network is to coordinate efforts, communicate effectively, share resources and information, and provide mutual support.



Support, create, and share actionable dark sky tools, guides, and resources to maintain the outstanding quality of the night sky throughout the Basin and Range.



Help promote night sky-related activities and provide community support for astronomy events and nocturnal habitats. Volunteer and talk to your community about ways to protect these special night skies!



<http://brdarkskies.org>



@brdarkskycooperative



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5 PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE OUTDOOR LIGHTING PRACTICES

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY ASSOCIATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ILLUMINATING ENGINEERING SOCIETY

If light is deemed useful and necessary, follow these guidelines to prevent, and minimize light pollution.



1. USEFUL - All light should have a clear purpose.

Before installing or replacing a light, determine if light is needed. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and the environment. Consider using reflective paints or self-luminous markers for signs, curbs, and steps to reduce the need for permanently installed outdoor lighting.



2. TARGETED - Light should be directed only to where needed.

Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.



3. LOW LIGHT LEVELS - Light should be no brighter than necessary.

Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.



4. CONTROLLED - Light should be used only when it is useful.

Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.



5. COLOR - Use warmer color lights where possible.

Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.

DARK SKY COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

The Dark Sky Cooperative does not have a legal boundary, but is instead a geographic region where public lands, tribes, communities, businesses, schools, clubs, and citizens join to support a set of principles resulting in mutual benefits and the long-term conservation of our starry night heritage.

1. The view of the night sky is a precious resource and a cultural heritage that has become rare in America and throughout the world.
2. Sharing the night sky can enhance local economies through destination ecotourism, extending visitor length of stay, and providing families more activities during their vacation.
3. Night sky friendly outdoor lighting is more efficient, resulting in improved visibility and safety, energy savings, reduced costs, and elevated quality of life for residents
4. Conservation will be enhanced through partnership between communities, public land managers, and other partners. Education, voluntary measures, and creative approaches will be emphasized.
5. Dark night skies also benefit nocturnal animals and help maintain wildlife corridors and ecosystem health.
6. A shared vision can best protect dark skies for this and future generations.

TAKING ACTION



1. **TOWN MEETINGS:** Start a dialog among communities throughout the Basin & Range and along its margins. Learn about success stories and discover opportunities
2. **LIGHTING EDUCATION:** Show the benefits of dark-sky friendly lighting through pilot demonstrations, mobile kiosks at community events, and real-world examples.
3. **INVITE THE WORLD:** Let people know of the outstanding stargazing opportunities by publishing regular night events and marking night sky viewpoints on maps and making them stargazing friendly.
4. **CELEBRATE THE NIGHT:** Encourage star parties, full moon walks, meteor watching, nocturnal wildlife listening, nighttime photography, learning astronomy, campfire programs, and retelling of star stories.
5. **MEASURE PROGRESS:** This is one environmental problem that can be addressed without difficulty. It is possible to not only prevent future harm, but to actually restore the night. Measuring the quality of the night sky can show immediate progress.
6. **INVOLVE THE ARTS:** Already known for its daytime landscapes that draw artists to the Basin & Range, another realm awaits at night to capture the creativity of poets and painters
7. **DARK SKY PARKS:** Federal and State Parks and Lands can attain certification by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) that demonstrate their commitment to sustainable outdoor lighting.
8. **DARK SKY COMMUNITIES:** Encourage and support towns pursuing International Dark Sky Community certification. Highly visible projects, like dark-sky friendly Main Streets, can show that such conservation can look great and guide the way to starrier future.
9. **RALLY PARTNERS:** A multitude of partners can find inspiration in a Basin & Range Dark Sky Cooperative - from NASA, astronomy clubs, and nearby Universities, to tourism boards, heritage associations, and utility companies.
10. **BRANDING:** A logo can show others the commitment of a town, a business, or an individual to protecting dark skies and the opportunity to experience natural darkness.