

GUEST SPOTLIGHT



INTRODUCING THE WESTERN NIGHT SKIES COUNCIL

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Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative

Colorado

Bettymaya Foott

New Mexico

Bettymaya Foott

Arizona

Bettymaya Foott

Wyoming

Neal Herbert NPS Photo

Idaho

Wally Pacholka AstroPics

THE WESTERN NIGHT SKIES COUNCIL

The preservation and protection of the dark sky is inherently a regional issue, and connection, communication and collaboration among dark-sky advocates leads to greater success in minimizing the impact of artificial light at night.

To provide a platform for sharing resources and information, increasing dialogue, and providing mutual support for the diverse groups of night sky conservation advocates throughout the Western United States, the Colorado Plateau Dark Sky Cooperative in partnership with the GNAR Initiative has spearheaded the formation of a Western Night Skies Council (WNSC).

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The WNSC is composed of over 30 members representing state and federal agencies, community members, tribal nations, educational institutions, lighting and policy experts, non-profits, and local leaders throughout eleven Western States.

Council members meet virtually on a quarterly basis and sponsor public webinars that provide opportunities for showcasing dark-sky advocacy work, knowledge and skill-sharing, network building, and other occasions to learn and connect.

TOP PRIORITIES OF THE COUNCIL

BASED ON A RECENT COUNCIL SURVEY

- *Advocating decidedly in favor of preservation of the last remaining large 'pools' of natural darkness in the Lower 48 states.*
- *Helping communities 'touch' the night sky for themselves whether it be by telescope, camera, or the naked eye if they touch it, they will protect it.*
- *Measure, track, and highlight successes in the region to show how increased communication, connection, and collaboration result in positive outcomes for dark-sky preservation.*



Utah

Bettymaya Foott



Nevada

NPS Photo



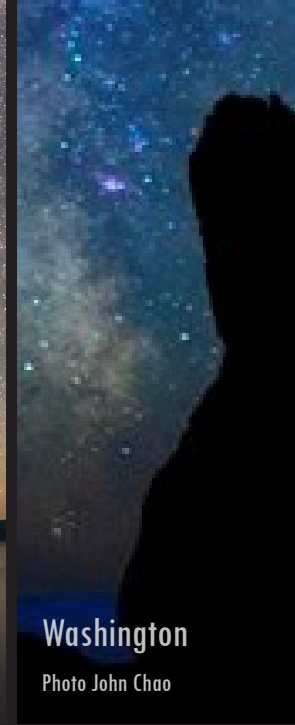
Montana

John Ashley 2011



Oregon

Jeremy White NPS Photo



Washington

Photo John Chao



California

Photo Ernie Cowan

- *Inter-organizational communications, networking, resource and best-practice sharing, and outreach.*
- *Helping communities and organizations understand the importance of preserving and protecting the dark sky and supporting local dark sky efforts.*
- *High level discussion of night sky (and natural darkness) conservation needs, including support and possible funding sources for dark sky cooperatives.*
- *Developing a complementary program, mission, and vision that does not overlap with other existing programs.*
- *Increasing access and interest in dark sky ideology and certification including specific ordinance and enforcement detail.*
- *Science-informed management; public communication and values.*
- *Linking the value of dark skies with public health and local economic goals.*

THE COOPERATIVES & GNAR

The Colorado Plateau and Basin and Range Dark Sky Cooperatives support and promote landscape-scale night sky conservation efforts throughout two of the darkest remaining regions in the Western U.S.

The GNAR (Gateway, Natural Amenity, Recreation) Initiative aims to leverage research, education, and capacity building to assist communities, land managers, and others in gateway and natural amenity regions throughout the West in preparing for and responding to planning, development, natural resource management, and public policy challenges.

TO LEARN MORE CONTACT:

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VISIT

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