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MONTHLY MESSAGING & RESOURCES FOR LEADERS IN DESTINATION STEWARDSHIP

Unveil the Night



Photo credit: Bettymaya Foott

“June is an appropriate month to celebrate and bring awareness to the importance of dark skies as more Coloradans [and visitors] venture outdoors with the warming weather and are awed by the brightness of the Milky Way and celestial planets.”

— Dan Gibbs, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Excessive use of artificial light at night, also known as light pollution, can overwhelm nature's rhythms and disrupt life's ability to tune into nature's cycles. It can also adversely affect the well-being of wildlife in numerous ways including disrupting breeding rituals of nocturnal frogs and causing birds that migrate at night to wander off course.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Library of Medicine, light pollution is increasing at twice the rate of population growth and 83 percent of the global population now lives under a light-polluted sky. Light pollution does not only occur in highly populated areas, but has expanded into rural areas and open spaces, diminishing Colorado's beloved dark skies.

Respecting wildlife and being considerate of others come naturally when we plan ahead and prepare our nighttime activities with stewardship and preservation of the night sky in mind. We invite you to join the growing number of people in Colorado and around the world in protecting the nighttime environment and celebrating the night sky filled with stars as a shared heritage of all living things.

Yours in stewardship,

Tim Wolfe
Director
Colorado Tourism Office

Dana Watts
Executive Director
Leave No Trace

Help Us Share the Care for Colorado Monthly Messaging

Responsible Lighting Practices From International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) Colorado Chapter

The International Dark-Sky Association and Illuminating Engineering Society provided guidance for responsible use of artificial light at night that can be applied when at home and when recreating and camping in Colorado's great outdoors. Responsible lighting practices include:

1. Turning off lights when not in use, and using lights only where and when you need them.
2. Keeping indoor light indoors – using curtains at home and covering windows and openings in RVs, camper vans and tents.
3. Using warm-color temperature lights – in particular red-light flashlights, headlamps, filters and coverings – when light is needed.
4. Using only the minimum brightness necessary.
5. Shielding all lights and pointing them downward.

Sharable Resources From the Care for Colorado Coalition

- Colorado Parks & Wildlife: [Stargazing](#)
- Colorado Tourism Office: [Colorado Stargazing: Experience the Night](#)
- IDA: [5 Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting](#)
- IDA Colorado Chapter: [Colorado's 15 IDA-certified International Dark Sky Parks and Communities](#)

- IDA: [Lights Out Colorado \(bird migration\)](#).
 - IDA: [Light Pollution Effects on Wildlife and Ecosystems](#)
 - Leave No Trace: [3 Ways to Minimize Light Pollution While Camping](#)
 - National Park Service: [Protecting the Night](#)
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#CareForColorado Social Media Posts

- Did you know that more than 80 percent of migrating birds travel at night? Remember to always turn off any unnecessary lights that may attract or disorient birds traveling through the night sky. This will help save energy, too! #CareforColorado #LeaveNoTrace
 - 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. #CareforColorado #LeaveNoTrace
 - Light at camp can be a fatal attraction for insects. Animal species that rely on insects for food are negatively impacted when bugs are attracted to your campsite. Try to only use lights when you need them, and remember to turn them off when you leave your site or go to bed. #CareforColorado #LeaveNoTrace
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Care for Colorado Coalition “Unveil the Night” Success Stories

- 5280: [Your Guide To Stargazing in Colorado](#)
 - AFAR: [Colorado Could Soon Be Home to the World's Largest Dark Sky Reserve](#)
 - Wet Mountain Valley: [Stargazing content](#)
 - Spanish Peaks Country: [Southern Colorado Astronomical Park](#)
 - Colorado Springs: [2022 Rocky Mountain Star Stare](#) annual star party
 - Colorado national parks and monuments with stargazing programs:
 - [Mesa Verde National Park](#)
 - [Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve](#)
 - [Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument](#)
 - [Dinosaur National Monument](#)
 - [Hovenweep National Monument](#)
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Wildfire Seasonal Outlook

Governor Polis and fire agencies across the state provided their [annual wildfire outlook](#) last month, and officials warn that 2022 has the potential to be another

devastating wildfire year. Current long-range forecasts indicate above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation from now into June. As such, the focus for our next Coalition meeting in June will be on fire safety and prevention. The CTO wants to also remind coalition members that we have the [Crisis Communications Toolkit](#) as a resource available to all.

Care for Colorado Coalition News

- Stewardship Member **Angler's Covey** [was nominated for an Orvis award](#).
- On **Thursday, June 16**, Leave No Trace will be hosting a workshop in Grand County. For additional information, please contact Faith Overall at faith@lnt.org.
- Join more than 1,000 tourism professionals and become a [Certified Colorado Concierge](#). This is a free workforce-development resource to build your Colorado expertise. Help us share Colorado-style hospitality with all visitors and residents.

If you have any news or success stories that you would like to share in next month's newsletter, please email careforcolorado@COLORADO.com.

Care for Colorado Coalition

To learn more about the Care for Colorado Program, please check out our [content hub](#) on COLORADO.com. For questions on the Care for Colorado Coalition or if you would like to refer an organization, agency or business to be a Partner or Member, please email Barb Bowman at barb.bowman@COLORADO.com.



Colorado Tourism Office

Colorado Office of Economic
Development and International Trade
1600 Broadway, Suite 2500
Denver, Colorado 80202
(303) 892-3840

Care for Colorado Resources

Care for Colorado Principles Toolkit

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Leave No Trace Seven Principles © 1999 by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics:

www.LNT.org

Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, 1600 Broadway, Suite 2500,
Denver, Colorado 80202, (303) 892-3840

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