



PO Box 807 Paonia. Co. 81428

www.darksbiespaonia.com

Dear out of town neighbor,

As you may have heard, Paonia has recently been designated an International Dark Sky Community. This honor has been hard won. Seven years of focused work, many challenging town council meetings, lots of fundraising, dark sky educational events, a website, and best of all, serious community support. The ever receding country-wide option of stepping out on your porch and actually seeing and marveling at the Creator's evening splendor of stars, planets, galaxies and the Milky Way is now to be protected and cherished.

We can only hope the wonder of the night skies also touches your heart and you who are outside of town limits will voluntarily participate to keep your lights appropriately off or responsibly shielded and with a warm color temperature. The science is conclusive that minimal night light is healthy for all life – including humans. We understand that night lights can be useful when they have a purpose, and using light at night responsibly by following the *5 Principles of Responsible Lighting* will allow us all to enjoy the night safely while protecting it at the same time. Dark Skies Paonia can offer help, suggestions and guidance as much as possible as it only takes a few unmanaged lights to overwhelm the intentions of this whole movement to protect visually what is being sadly lost in most of the world.

As Joni Mitchel famously sang – *“you don't know what you've got till it's gone!”* Thanks for considering a dark sky lifestyle, where outdoor artificial light is used responsibly and only if it is needed so that we can keep our night skies naturally dark. You will be traveling in the best of company.

Blessings,

Dark Skies Paonia

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