



THE WESTERN NIGHT SKIES COUNCIL

Formed in October 2020, the Western Night Skies Council (WNSC) values the preservation of the last remaining large 'pools' of natural darkness in the Lower 48 states and presents 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.

VISION FOR THE COUNCIL

The vision for the Western Night Skies Council (WNSC) is **a platform for increased connection, communication, and collaboration** among the diverse groups of night sky conservation advocates throughout the Western States.

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The council is composed of a diverse membership representing federal and state agencies, public land managers, community leaders, tribal nations, educational institutions, non-profits, and other dark-sky-conscious entities throughout the West. Members are invited to participate in biannual virtual gatherings and webinars hosted by the Colorado Plateau and Basin & Range Dark Sky Cooperatives and the Gateway and Natural Amenity Region (GNAR) Initiative.

WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION LOOK LIKE?

Council gatherings are an opportunity for members to share resources, dig into relevant topics, network with peers, and receive support and feedback. Webinar sessions provide opportunities for members to showcase their dark-sky advocacy work, share knowledge and skills, answer questions, and learn and connect with a diverse audience. Webinars are open to the general public and are recorded and hosted on the Institute of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism's YouTube Channel. [Click here](#) to view past sessions.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Increased communication and collaboration between dark-sky advocates
- Sharing of best practices, tools, resources, information, and skills
- Clarification as to who is doing what where
- Amplification of night sky advocate voices
- Decreased stigmatization of the dark skies movement
- Entities working together that would not normally do so
- Opportunities to connect students and young professionals with projects, internships, and career opportunities

WHAT IS THE GNAR INITIATIVE?

The Gateway and Natural Amenity Region (GNAR) Initiative, based out of Utah State University, 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. The GNAR Initiative exists to help western GNAR communities thrive and preserve the things that make them special (like dark skies!). Visit usu.edu/ignar to learn more.



FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT:

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